



Council recruit more wardens after road safety rethink

LOLLIPOP PATROL BACK IN DEMAND

Report by Marion Brennan

COUNCIL bosses are recruiting for school crossing patrols in Dudley – a year after considering axing their funding.

Back then Dudley Council claimed it could no longer afford to pay for so many lollipop wardens and insisted schools stump up the cash.

But protests forced them into a U-turn over plans to slash numbers.

A safety review had found 70 per cent of patrol sites in the borough did not meet national guidelines, boosting the council's case to axe funding. However, campaigners raised a 20,000-strong petition and demonstrated against the warden cuts.

A Freedom of Information request revealed the number of lollipop men and women in Dudley had fallen by nearly a third.

Figures showed there were 77 crossing wardens in the borough in 2016 – down from 111 in 2012. They also revealed that the number of sites patrolled had fallen from 125 to 80. The downward trend was mirrored by authorities across the Midlands.

Report

The future of lollipop patrols remained uncertain when an independent report last November recommended that the council prioritise implementing 20mph zones outside its schools.

A meeting to discuss the issue failed to draw any conclusions but earlier this year the council committed to fund the service for the next three years.

Now the council has announced it is looking to recruit in 13 locations across the borough.

A post on their website described the work of lollipop wardens as 'valued roles in the community'.

Anyone interested is invited to get in touch for an informal chat and to find out more. Applications can be made in writing via the road safety team, or online through WM Jobs.

All posts are permanent and those selected will be starting work with the new school term in September.

Wardens are needed at sites in Halesowen, Dudley, Stourbridge, Quarry Bank, Kingswinford and Netherton.

REBECCA'S BID TO BOOST TRADE IN TOWN CENTRE



Business owner Rebecca Howard is the Halesowen BID manager, tasked with helping bring more shoppers to the town centre

THE Halesowen Business Improvement District has announced its first manager as part of their strategy to create a brighter future for the town.

Rebecca Howard joins the organisation with more than 10 years experience of running her own business, Danse Vivante, which offers dance classes. She has also supported the organisation and management of the Halesowen Carnival.

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a defined area in which a special levy is charged on business rate payers in addition to the

business rates bill. This levy is used to develop projects which will benefit trade in the local area. The BID manager's role involves working closely with the wide variety of businesses, as well as creating events and projects that will support the town's economic growth.

Mrs Howard said: "I'm thrilled to be offered this role. As a local business owner, I know first hand the day-to-day issues that most of our businesses face."

Mrs Howard will liaise with key organisations such as the police and Dudley Council on upcoming projects. She will also work

closely on issues highlighted by the town's businesses, including security and improving footfall.

Mrs Howard added: "I believe we can increase footfall and stimulate investment into the area and my main objective as BID manager will be to support local business and enhance the reputation of our town."

Wayne Edwards, chairman of Halesowen BID, said: "We're looking forward to supporting Rebecca in her new role."

BIDs operate in more than 180 towns and cities across the UK.

POLICE

Gunshots as four held after violence

YOBS armed with batons attacked a car before gunshots were fired in a night of chaos in Netherton. The disorder, which left four people in police custody, took place in Lodge Crescent on Saturday.

Police responded to reports of people attacking the occupants of a car, followed by reports of gunshots. Officers believe it was in relation to an earlier incident where a 36-year-old woman had been assaulted. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

COURT

Man denies that he killed partner

A NETHERTON man has denied murdering his partner. Claire Harris died after being found with serious injuries at a house in Cinder Bank, Netherton, on January 24.

Rickardo Wilson, aged 50, from Cinder Bank, pleaded not guilty to her murder when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday. He was remanded in custody until his trial at Stafford Crown Court on July 2.

FOOTBALL

Moore to the fore for memorial match

CARETAKER West Bromwich Albion boss Darren Moore is to manage an all-stars Albion team at this Sunday's match in Halesowen being held in memory of former Baggies mascot Richard Eades. It will be the day after Albion's Premier clash at Newcastle.

Moore, who recently attended a charity match at Stourbridge for Mary Stevens Hospice, will be at The Grove as his all-stars take on Chris Brunt's team of Albion fans Boing FC.

● Eades tribute – page 3

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PM IN VISIT TO DUDLEY FIRM



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Jodie to promote transplant games



Triathlete Jodie Stimpson

STARS of sport, including former Commonwealth champion Jodie Stimpson, have been appointed as ambassadors for this summer's British Transplant Games in Birmingham.

The Oldbury triathlete will join former Manchester United and England footballer Andy Cole and Olympic silver medallist swimmer Sharron Davies to help promote the games, which run from August 2-5, as well as encouraging people to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Professor James Neuberger, chair-

man of the organising committee, said: "We are honoured to have such great ambassadors to not only promote the games but the message of organ donation."

"We hope that the Birmingham Transplant Games will not only show the huge benefits that organ donation gives to both recipients and donor families but also show all that Birmingham has to offer as a great city with world class facilities."

Jodie Stimpson, aged 29, won individual and team gold at the 2014 Com-

monwealth Games held in Glasgow as well as winning two rounds of the ITU World Triathlon Series. More recently she came second when she competed in the 2018 Gran Canaria ETU Sprint Triathlon European Cup last month.

The British Transplant Games were developed by the surgeon Maurice Slapack in 1978, originally as an international event, and today the British Transplant Games see teams from hospitals across the UK come together to compete. Many athletes also take part at the World Transplant Games.

PM gives Windrush apology on factory visit

THE Prime Minister has apologised to Black Country grandmother Paulette Wilson in the wake of the Windrush scandal.

Jamaica-born Mrs Wilson, from Wolverhampton, was threatened with deportation and locked up in an immigration centre, despite having lived in the UK for 50 years.

On a visit to Dudley, Theresa May said she was sorry for Mrs Wilson's treatment and vowed to ensure that everybody from the Windrush generation received the official documents they need.

The Government has been accused of 'institutional racism' over its immigration policy, which has seen some Commonwealth citizens and their children denied welfare support and threatened with expulsion despite legally living in Britain for decades.

Mrs Wilson, 61, was told in January that she could stay in the UK. She had been branded an illegal immigrant in 2015 and spent a week detained in Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre last October.

Sorry

The Prime Minister visited Netherton office furniture manufacturers Boss Design where she chatted with workers and took a tour of the firm's site in Boss Drive.

She said: "Of course I am sorry to Paulette for what has happened, as I'm sorry to anybody from the Windrush generation who has had a bad experience or who is anxious because of what has happened."

She added: "The Windrush generation helped to build this country and they have a right to be here. They are British, they are part of us."

"When they came over the Govern-



Every politician likes a comfortable seat - Theresa May chats to Derek Whitehouse at Boss Design in Dudley

ment at the time did not give them documents to show their right to be here. We need to address that situation.

"Many people now have documents, but the Home Office has set up a special team so anybody from the Windrush generation who is worried should get in touch with the Home Office."

"They are their to work with them to ensure they get the documents they need. This is a generation that is

part of us, they are British, they have contributed to this country. I want everybody to be reassured about that and I'm sorry for the anxiety that has been caused."

Mrs Wilson, who arrived in Britain in 1968 and has worked all her life, received a letter telling her she was an illegal immigrant last year. The Home Office said she was granted indefinite leave to remain once she 'made the correct application and provided evidence of her residency

in the UK'. Mrs May has said those of the Windrush generation treated unfairly by the Home Office would be compensated 'where appropriate'.

The Prime Minister met machinists and other workers at Boss Design, posing for a selfie with technician upholsterer Derek Whitehouse. Boss Design manufactures and supplies furniture for commercial use, including the presenters' seats currently used on the set of TV's Match Of The Day.

Councils and police find suspected child slaves

MORE than 20 suspected child victims of human trafficking and slavery were picked up by councils in the Black Country and Staffordshire in three months.

In total, 23 children were referred to the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) by the authorities from September to December - up from 13 in the three months before.

The figures from the National Crime Agency show that, out of the 23 victims, 10 were referred from Sandwell Council, five from Stafford borough and four from Wolverhampton. Two came from Walsall Council and one from both Staffordshire County Council and Dudley Council.

West Midlands Police referred 10 children and Staffordshire Police three.

The councils and police pass on the people to the UKHTC to determine if they are a victim of human trafficking or slavery. While inquiries are made, the person is kept in a safe house.

If a victim, they are then allowed to stay in the UK for a year, so long as they co-operate with the police. An application can be made with the Home Office to stay longer.

Sandwell Council has recently introduced a policy in a bid to help protect the vulnerable to exploitation. An awareness conference was held in Oldbury.

Singer says no to the bullies

SCHOOL pupils in the region were visited by a singer spreading an important message about anti-bullying.

Students at Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy in Oldbury and George Salter Academy in West Bromwich were treated to a performance from 21-year-old singer Asher Knight.

Asher, from Bradford, is touring schools across the country as part of an anti-bullying campaign in partnership with children's charity Barnardos.

The singer also discussed his own experiences of bullying.

Jemima Waltho, from the Ormiston Academies Trust which runs both schools, said: "It is incredibly moving what he has to say on the subject and his recent performances were fantastic."

Manor's picnic with Shakespeare

WILLIAM Shakespear's A Winter's Tale is being performed at the Manor House Museum in West Bromwich on Bank Holiday Monday (May 28) at 5pm. Picnics will be welcome.

For tickets, priced £11 to £14, call 0121 588 2985.

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Ambulance staff back on TV with real drama

AMBULANCE staff from the region are set to star in the new series of a BAFTA-nominated TV show.

West Midlands Ambulance Service will feature in the new series of BBC show *Ambulance*, which highlights the lengths that ambulance staff go to ensure patients receive the care they need.

The eight-part observational documentary will be shown on BBC One from today (Thursday) at 9pm.

The programme will show staff as they deal with the highs and lows of life on the road and in the control rooms.

WMAS chief executive Anthony Marsh said: "The thing that comes over from these programmes is the incredible professionalism of our staff as they deal with the challenges that they are presented with, never knowing what the next call might bring."

"I am proud that we have been able to show the diverse nature of our workforce and how we interact with people from every area and community of the West Midlands."

The series was filmed in December and January when the NHS was under immense pressure.

Each episode follows the call-handlers and ambulance dispatchers in the regions two control-rooms along with the ambulance crews as they respond to nearly 4,000 emergency 999 calls every single day.

Madness to play Brum on UK tour

HITMAKERS Madness will be dropping into Birmingham later this year as part of a major UK tour.

The Sound of Madness tour, featuring guests The Fratellis, will be at Arena Birmingham on December 15 and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). Madness, fronted by Suggs, are one of the top 20 best-selling UK groups of all time with seven top 10 albums, 22 top 20 hits and more than six million album sales.

It's set to get even busier this summer for the House of Fun and Baggy Trousers outfit with their Stately Madness tour, followed by the legendary House of Fun Weekender.

Tickets are on sale from 9.30am via theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Christmas Chaos

CRADLEY Heath Amateur Operatic Society has issued a casting call for folk to star in their production of *White Christmas* in November. Call 07801 381298 or email chaos@chaosoperatics.co.uk.

Legends line up for Eadesy tribute



Richard Eades, left, with Dave Challoner

FORMER Albion stars have signed up for a charity match in memory of a much-loved club mascot and family man. A feast of football will be held to celebrate the life of Richard Eades.

Mr Eades, who died in December aged 42, completed nearly 30 years' service for the Baggies after starting at the club as a 14-year-old. He worked in various roles including ground staff and then coaching staff.

But he is most fondly remembered for his role as mascot 'Albi' - donning the costume since 2007.

The fundraising day in his honour

will take place at Halesowen Town's ground The Grove, on Sunday from 11am to 7.30pm.

Football, face painting and a fun fair head up the schedule, with all proceeds raised going to help Richard's two young children, Lily-Mae, eight, and Archie, three.

The day kicks off with a nine-a-side tournament before mascots from all over the country congregate for a special 'It's a Knockout'-style match.

The showpiece event sees Being FC, a club Richard was involved with for more 10 years as player and man-

ager, take on an Albion Legends XI at around 4.30pm. Peter Odemwingie, Richard Sneekes, Russell Hoult, Andy Johnson, Kevin Donovan, Sean Gregan and Geoff Horsfield are among former Baggies set to feature.

Friend and fellow mascot Dave Challoner - also known as Baggie Bird - has played a major role. He said: "I wanted to organise something which would bring together everyone who knew Eadesy to celebrate his life." To buy tickets at £5, go to ticket-etailor.com/events/richardeadesmorialfundraiser/

Sandwell is top for police stop and search

MORE people were questioned by police under stop and search powers in Sandwell than any other borough in the Black Country.

Officers used the powers on 1,104 occasions across the borough in 2017/18. Out of those, 17.5 per cent led to an arrest. Elsewhere in the Black Country, Wolverhampton saw 1,030 occasions of the powers being used, Walsall 745 and Dudley 499. Across the force the number was 12,284 - a fall from 64,000 in 2011/12.

Chief Superintendent Chris Todd revealed the figures at a meeting of West Midlands' strategic policing and crime board, which took place on Tuesday.

He said: "We made a concerted effort from 2011/12 into the addressing the use of these intrusive powers across the West Midlands Police."

"It was found through inspection that around 27 per cent records did not meet the requirements at that time which would demonstrate unlawful use of those powers."

But he said the picture has improved.

Commissioner

A recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services found just three out of 200 stop and searches were 'less than satisfactory'.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "In the West Midlands we have reduced the number of stop and searches whilst also increasing the number of arrests."

"Our intelligence-led approach has reduced disproportionately and meant that officers are focusing their efforts much more effectively than they were five years ago."

"With fewer officers, we must ensure they're using the time as effectively as possible."

Mr Jamieson said the force's approach has improved efficiency.

He added: "It is an issue that we are constantly looking at to see if we can improve further. Stop and search is a useful tool, but must be used properly."

Firefighters rise to the challenge



Watch commander Justin Bayliss on the ladder of success for Haden Cross firefighters' charity challenge

A TEAM of firefighters are on top of the world after conquering the world's highest mountain but without leaving the Black Country.

The 10-strong crew from Blue and Green Watches at Haden Cross fire station climbed the equivalent of 8,848 metre Mount

Everest by repeatedly scaling ladders in a charity challenge at the Merry Hill shopping centre and had enough energy to go higher.

After completing the seven-hour marathon on Saturday, which took place outside Debenhams, firefighter Matt Crawford said: "We smashed Everest. We

thought it would take us six hours but did it in under five. We carried on for a full seven hours because people were still donating money."

They had hoped to raise around £1,000 but are likely to have collected four times that for the Fire Fighters Charity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Totalkare head for a record year

A HALESOWEN-based specialist provider of heavy-duty vehicle lifting solutions says it is on course for a record breaking year.

Totalkare, which celebrated its 35th anniversary last year, has secured a number of new contracts with multi-national operators and independent workshops that will see it pass £8m sales for the first time.

The £400,000 annual boost comes at a perfect time, with the firm, which recently increased its workforce to 46, set to showcase its Two Post Lift - he hydraulic lift has a 5,500kg lifting capacity - at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham NEC this week.

Chat and knit at Haden Hill House

CRAFTS group Natty Knitters is looking for new members.

The club meets at Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath every fortnight on Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm and members can bring their knitting, or any other crafts, along to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with like-minded people.

Resident knitter Jan is always on hand to help anyone if they need it. Anyone is welcome, whether an expert or beginner. Just drop in for £2. The next sessions are on May 9, May 23, June 6, July 4 and July 18.

£60m swim centre work starts 2019

WORK on a £60m aquatics centre in Sandwell, which will host Commonwealth Games events, will start next year, a council boss has vowed.

The state-of-the-art complex in Londonderry Lane, Smethwick, needs to be up and running by 2021 ahead of the 2022 Games.

Planning approval for the centre is expected later this year, with Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling confirming work must get under way in early 2019. That leaves just over two years for the centre to be built, so it is ready to host trial events in 2021.

Impact helps 6,000 youngsters into work

A SERVICE in the Black Country has helped thousands of young people into work or training, new figures have revealed.

The figures show that Black Country Impact has helped more than 6,000 16 to 29-year-olds since its launch in 2016.

It offers help to young people in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton who are currently not in employment, education or training.

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4 17 new animal cruelty cases reported daily

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

MORE than 6,000 complaints about animal cruelty were investigated in the West Midlands last year with 17 cases reported every day, new figures show.

It makes the region the fourth worst in the UK, with only Greater London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire with a poorer record for animal welfare.

The figures have been released as part of the RSPCA's annual cruelty statistics, which show that, nationally, 141,760 complaints about animal cruelty were investigated in 2017.

Cases investigated by the RSPCA in the West Midlands last year included a dog beaten by his owner near a canal, a dog tied up in a bin bag and left to die at the side of a road and a terrier weighing 2kg found with its coat heavily matted in dreadlocks.

The most calls received related to dogs (3,826), followed by cats (1,817) and then horses (342). Some 6,216 concerns in all were reported.

Rebecca Cooper, the RSPCA's chief inspector for the West Midlands, said: "It is shocking that people can be capable of such deliberate brutality towards animals but equally it drives us on to ensure that perpetrators of animal cruelty are put before the courts.

"We are very grateful to everyone who takes the time to raise concerns."

Noel rocks in

NOEL Gallagher brings his High Flying Birds to Arena Birmingham in the city centre on Tuesday evening. He will be featuring tracks from his three albums, including the recent Who Built The Moon? and probably some old Oasis favourites too. Support comes from Baxter Dury. The son of Ian Dury released his fifth album Prince of Tears last year.

Fundraising for statue tribute to 'Three Degrees' falls short

Canadian comic tops the bill at Cornbow

CANADIAN comic Tom Stade will top a triple bill for the opening night of a new stand-up comedy night in Halesowen.

Former Black Country resident Stade, probably most famous for his routine about a meat van in Bilston, has appeared on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and the John Bishop Show.

He has built up a cult following since moving to the UK and will take centre stage at Comedy at the Cornbow on Saturday, September 15.

Also on the bill will be Alun Cochrane, as seen on Mock the Week, Have I Got News For You and 8 Out of 10 Cats, and Brummie Jo Enright, who starred in ITV sitcom the Job Lot and in Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights.

The show will be hosted by Dudley comic Wayne Beese, who will be resident MC for the new comedy night which it is hoped will run quarterly from next year.

Mr Beese said: "We are really excited to be launching a new night in Halesowen. We already run nights in Dudley, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill.

"Cornbow Hall is a great setting for comedy and we have genuinely got three of the best live stand-ups in the country. They are all very different too, so it promises to be a brilliant opening night."

Early bird tickets costing £15 are available until the end of April. To nook tickets, visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/comedycornbow website.



Canadian Tom Stade will be helping to launch a comedy night in Halesowen

A FRESH campaign to raise the final £38,000 needed to honour West Bromwich Albion's 'Three Degrees' with a bronze statue has fallen flat.

The statue of Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson and Laurie Cunningham, who were nicknamed the Three Degrees by West Brom's manager at the time Ron Atkinson, was first mooted five years ago.

Now the project has hit a stalling point as latest efforts to raise the last £38,000 has fallen flat with just £1,765 of the target was raised from 48 supporters of the campaign.

Despite this, the man behind the project, Jim Cadman, insists this is not the end of the road for the statue as the £38,000 needed is the final sum with £182,000 already raised.

Mr Cadman: "We are speaking with Sandwell Council and Cyrille's widow Julia at the moment.

"We are in the process of setting up meetings and we are trying to come together to form a plan to move it forward. The most enormous amount of effort has gone into it. We are trying now to get the final amount of money.

"It has been going on for a long time now but this has not put a spanner in the works. The Crowdfunder happened when everyone was in mourning over Cyrille and the focus was on the devastating loss of one of Albion's greatest ever players."

He added: "The club have got their own views on the statue but the situation remains that we are still falling short of the money needed.

"We have actually got the statue ready to put together and all the work has been completed. There is a site already set in New Square in West Bromwich."

Sculptor Graham Ibbeson's 10ft high statue would be a permanent tribute to the three players.

Black Country firm supplies F1 teams

A BLACK Country engineering business is supplying two of the teams bidding for glory in this season's 1 World Championships.

Stephens Gaskets in Alston Road, Oldbury, has won orders to supply a number of parts, mainly highly tolerance bespoke shims (metal spacers).

These parts are crucial for increasing and decreasing loads on the power steering and their reliability can win or lose a race.

The latests orders follow work that Stephens Gaskets has done for several F1 motor racing teams over the years.

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Housing growth boost as developers focus on Brum

THE boundaries of Birmingham city centre are being pushed in new directions for housing development, according to estate agents Savills.

It says that 31 per cent growth in average residential values since 2013 has improved the viability of complex sites and strong commercial occupier demand is encouraging developers to look beyond the city's historic core. The firm's Birmingham: Delivering Transformation report highlights a diversification in city centre residential development, not traditionally a focus for major housebuilders, with 21,200 residential units in planning or under construction.

School has faced social media issues

ST Michael's C of E High School in Rowley Regis has been praised for a debate on the dangers of sexting, pornography and social media, involving 65 parents and 200 students as part of the 21 Century Child Programme.

Students and parents at the Curral Road school highlighted how the event had allowed for awkward topics to be discussed.

Sandwell College theatre students delivered scenarios with follow-up presentations for parents, whilst guests discussed the importance of role models, making choices and relationships in the age of social media.

Kerry Whitehouse, the school's engagement development manager said: "In a world dominated by social media, we are doing our best to give both students and their parents the most up-to-date information about trending issues."

Of these 1,800 are being built to rent.

In Birmingham the average house price 7.2 times the average salary compared to 16.6 times in London.

Savills says house price growth will be subdued for the rest of this year, but five-year compound growth of 14.8 per cent will be in line with the UK average of 14.2 per cent, and will outperform London (7.1 per cent) and the South East (11.5 per cent).

Investment

Joe Shorney, Savills' head of residential development sales in the Midlands, said: "Increasingly, we have seen investment from specialist and historically London-centric developers such as Berkeley and Galliard looking to Birmingham to capitalise on the continually growing market. This influx of developers and institutional funders is creating increased confidence and resulting in boundaries being pushed beyond the city centre."

Savills highlights the link between the city centre and Birmingham Airport as a key corridor for growth.

Aim for Merry Hill to rival Trafford Centre



An artist's impression of the proposed intu Merry Hill leisure development with new Odeon cinema

SHOPPING centre owner intu aims to bring Merry Hill up to equal its biggest site, Manchester's Trafford Centre.

The company has already revealed plans to spend more than £100 million on the shopping centre at Brierley Hill. Plans include a new cinema as part of an expanded leisure and dining area. And Next is converting the former Sainsbury supermarket into one of the chain's biggest UK stores.

Now intu has revealed its aim to put Merry Hill on a par with one of the biggest and most successful shopping centres in the country.

The company said: "At intu Merry Hill in the West Midlands, a centre we took full ownership of in 2016, we have a great opportunity to generate value with a leisure extension, similar to that at intu Lakeside, to ensure the centre has a compelling mix of retail, catering and leisure on a par with our

flagship asset outside Manchester, intu Trafford Centre."

It came as the property giant revealed rising customer numbers and its success signing up a string of major shopping brands for its centres up and down the country.

The bullish trading statement was seen as part of intu's efforts to quell any doubts about its proposed £3.4 billion tie-up with Bullring and Grand Central owner Hammerson.

Thief raided three Aldi stores in hour

A THIEF who pocketed almost £1,000 in around an hour with three cash snatches in different Aldi stores before a car chase is starting a two year and eight month jail sentence.

Paul McMullen returned to crime three weeks after being released on licence from his previous prison term, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 37-year-old, who has committed 89 separate crimes, struck first at the Kidderminster branch of the supermarket chain on February 10, prising open the till at an unoccupied checkout while staff were distracted by an accomplice, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Later the two men pulled the same trick at Aldi in Stourbridge and repeated the routine at the Halesowen branch less than 25 minutes afterwards. But this time staff reported the vehicle the banned driver was escaping in and a police patrol spotted that evening on the Black Country Route.

McMullen drove at more than 70mph in a 30mph limit while swerving onto the wrong side of roads but was caught after ploughing into three cars.

McMullen, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to three thefts, dangerous driving, driving when disqualified and other motoring offences. His accomplice has not been traced.

Menacing biker rode at teenagers

A MOTORCYCLIST shouted at three teenage boys before mounting the pavement and driving at them.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the incident in Bromsgrove town centre on March 13, which left the teenagers shaken. Call West Mercia Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Plans for Royal not what doc ordered

THE £25 million scheme to redevelop Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital has received a lukewarm reception from Historic England, the quango set up to safeguard our architectural heritage.

The plans would see the Grade II listed building turned into 53 flats, but the main bone of contention is the proposal to knock down the former nurses' quarters, dating back to 1910.

Personally, I find the idea of turning this majestic building into a block of flats a bit underwhelming. With a little imagination, could it have become a leisure quarter, packed with stylish restaurants, bars and specialist boutiques?

On the other hand, the hospital has been empty for 20 years, and it would be a tragedy if it were to fall into further decline. Perhaps we should be pragmatic. Maybe the nurses' home could be moved to the Black Country Museum.

Historic England's concerns emerged the same week as the same group launched a debate on whether or not we should demolish Nelson's Column, even producing an excruciating graphic of the monument being smashed by a wrecking ball. So while Historic England is worried about a disused nurses' home it thinks there is a valid argument for knocking down one of Britain's most recognisable landmarks. Good to know it's got its finger on the pulse.

□ □ □

WHILE politicians bicker like kids about the Windrush scandal, I fear the real point is getting lost.

The landing cards which would have provided the necessary evidence to prevent the debacle had been stored in a basement for decades. But then, in 2009, the UK Border Agency approved a "business case" to dispose of paper records. Says it all, doesn't it? Whenever a Whitehall pen-pusher starts talking about the "business case", alarms bells should ring. Bureaucrats just love playing the corporate executive don't they? One wonders how many of them would survive in the cut-and-thrust of the real business world.

No doubt the people who destroyed these vital files thought they were being frightfully modern, getting rid of all those dusty old papers and placing their trust in shiny new computers. Buzzwords like "paperless office", "digital" and "streamlined" probably also figured.

And how are the authorities, always so impotent at preventing illegal immigration and deporting foreign criminals, so red-hot efficient at cracking down on peaceful middle-aged folk without the right papers?

Tories braced but local polls rarely reflect national mood



Jeremy Corbyn – local elections could provide him with a personal boost



Theresa May – could the outcome have a bearing on her political future?



Norah Batty – but not the same as the one who made a substantial legacy

May could cause problem for PM

THE Tories are already bracing themselves for some catastrophic results at the local elections. But, conversely, this poll could well provide the beleaguered Jeremy Corbyn with his biggest personal boost since he became leader of the Labour Party. Equally, dire results could lead to further mumbling among Tory MPs about the quality of Theresa May's leadership. But, be warned: Local authority polls rarely reflect with any accuracy at all the prevailing national mood of politics, whatever the victorious candidates may tell you after the event. These elections are invariably used by supporters of the prevailing Government to deliver a 'buck-up-your-ideas' kick in the pants, painful enough to give ministers a warning that they'd better do better - or else - without actually toppling them. So, before the first week of May is out, we are likely to see considerable tracts of the land on the political map changed from blue to red, as Labour seem likely to gain seat after seat, largely at the expense of the Tories.

ALTOGETHER a grim prospect for Mrs May. The outcome could have a bearing on her political future. And what of the Liberal Democrats? The party came close to being wiped off the face of Westminster in the past two years, but the gruff leader, Sir Vince Cable, sees sunlight ahead. They will probably pick up a few seats here and there, but as for the massive revival he hopes for? Forget it.

ON our recent trip to Chester we came across some old houses in Abbey Street which had been restored, according to the plaque, 'with

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the help of a substantial legacy from Mrs Norah Batty'. Not the same one, apparently.

A REPORT recently claimed that even moderate drinking can shorten your life. But don't you just know that any day now there will be another report claiming that moderate drinking is good for you? Father Ted's famous words on religion - "That's the great thing about Catholicism - it's very vague and no-one knows what it's really all about" - apply just as well to medicine.

THAT great historian of our age, Philomena Cunk, made a good point in her series on the history of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (BBC2) concerning the development of computers. How very odd it is that the inventor of the first programmable computer or "difference engine," Charles Babbage (1791-1871) created the prototype of a device which, thanks to predictive texting 200 years later, would always spell his name as Cabbage.

YOU might think some things have been developed to the point where no further refinement is required. Not so. A reader describes a line of seemingly identical wheelbarrows at a garden centre. One was £20 cheaper than the others. "It's last year's model," explained the salesman.

GREAT news for motorists. As a result of a crackdown on bogus whiplash-injury claims, we are told "car-insurance premiums have fallen for the first time since 2014." This looks like one of those things that only affect other people. My premium for this year fell upwards, as always.

ANOTHER report reveals we are driving more old vehicles than ever. The number of cars over 13 years old has almost tripled in 20 years. The experts cite changes in car taxation and uncertainty about the future of diesel, but there is another crucial factor: rust. Since the early 2000s most cars have been rustproofed as never before. That's why you see so many 04 and 05-registered cars in great condition. By making cars last longer, car makers have undermined their own future.

CONSPIRACY-theory corner. If politicians feared that long-lasting cars might bankrupt the motor industry, how could they suddenly scrap lots of old cars to kick-start sales? They could tighten the MoT test. They could ignore millions of potholes. It's happening, folks.

I CELEBRATE St George's Day in my usual manner by not wearing a silly costume, not singing patriotic songs, not watching street dancers and not flying a flag. Why not? Because I'm English and those are things that foreigners do.

THE compressed-air machine at my local garage which used to charge 50p to pump up your tyres has been replaced by a new machine charging £1. Inflation, presumably.

TALKING POINT



Don't let children wander on their own

I STILL remember the horrifying footage of the two boys leading away toddler Jamie Bulger in 1993. Maybe parents these days are too young to remember, or memories fade, a bit like the rubber neckers who drive past a motorway crash and swear that they will never speed again. That pledge normally lasts for only the next few miles then, back to normal, foot on the pedal.

For those who don't remember, Jamie's mum took her eyes off the two year-old for just a second when she was in a shop and two boys led him away. His body was found on a railway line. Two young boys were put behind bars. Lives shattered.

When I brought up my children and was out with them I always held on tightly to them, reins were popular and were the perfect solution when you had to take your eyes off them, even for just a minute. That does not seem to be the case these days. When I walked through the Mander Centre the other day I was horrified to see children walking paces behind their parents while the adults chatted with friends, seemingly oblivious to where their toddler was.

Anybody could have led them away. I nearly stopped to ask one little boy if he was lost, did he know where his mum or dad was, etc, but then he cornered into a shop where I presume his carer was. And these days you have to be so careful approaching young children in case people take it the wrong way. I am sure you know what I mean.

That was not an isolated occasion. Many times I have seen toddlers trailing along. Why is their hand not being held? A few moments of thoughtlessness could bring a lifetime of misery. Hold on to your children!

I was moaning about it to a colleague when she told me a similar incident of poor parenting. She had seen a man cycling with two small children on bikes following him. He went straight across a busy road, seemingly oblivious to the fact that the children would follow and may be, by then, cars could be coming and it would not be safe to cross.

How would he have felt if one - or both - of them had been hit by a car? Surely the children should have been in front where he could keep an eye on them.

I think it is great that children be involved in shopping trips, sports, etc, but remember they are only young and they have not got the experience to deal with some situations.

Children are precious - keep them close and keep them safe!

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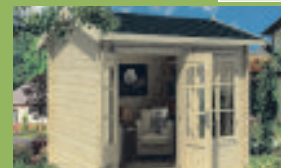
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Local bobbies only local if stationed locally

I read the article about eight police stations being closed over the next few years and within that article it stated there had been little or no opposition from the people of Dudley or Sandwell about the closures.

Did we have a choice and did the decision-makers care if the people of Dudley and Sandwell wanted to oppose the closures? I do not recall being asked my opinion about closures and I do not recall any surveys about closures.

When eventually all these stations have closed officers will have to travel further not only to get to their place of

work but to get to the emergency and no doubt at some stage a life or lives will be lost.

But don't worry, we can dial 101, and then after waiting a fair length of time to report your crime, no officer will visit. The crime will then be filed unless, of course, you have CCTV of the incident or you have evidence the police can act upon.

With all this wonderful technology, we have less stations, less officers, crime detection the lowest it's ever been, crime rising. Still those who are in the know tell us all these changes

will not affect everyday policing and the public will not even notice the difference.

The biggest deterrent on the street to a criminal and or wrong-doer is the sight of a uniformed officer. Now with stations being closed this can and will mean even fewer officers to be available in the area.

Local bobbies can only be local if stationed locally. Those who hold the purse strings don't care about everyday policing.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

Red paint will not slow traffic

I despair of getting any kind of coherent response from Sedgley councillors, candidates or Dudley traffic department concerning the Gospel End Street/Vicar Street accident blackspot.

By incomprehensibly placing a large white mound of asphalt outside Cafe Cappella, which most cars swerve to avoid, they've made the junction even more dangerous than it was.

Having failed to do their homework, they now find they cannot alter the angle of egress from Gospel End Street due to underground piping, which may be a good thing as it wouldn't have made a ha'porth of difference.

If they think painting the road red and replacing old signs with new will impress us, they take the population of Sedgley for mugs.

The obvious solution – to install road bumps on the approach to the junction – is ignored.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

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Etiquette fit for a burglary

I've taken a little time out to list some hints on what to do when confronting burglars.

1: Suggest they might like tea or a coffee.

2: Always be good mannered.

3: If asked where that cash you've put away is kept, show decorum as you open the front of the piano.

4: In the event of a knife being flashed in your face, you could suggest it may need sharpening and that you have a tool for that.

5: If you are about to be bound and gagged, direct the intruder to the clean towel drawer.

Okay, it's understandable when in your 70s you get a bit crotchety and forget the niceties and maybe skewer the assailant but honestly, it's really not in the spirit of things is it?

Ask any copper and he'll confirm what I say.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

Putin pride is the key to removing Assad

THE use of bombs and missiles will be futile in Syria as the only person powerful enough to topple Assad is Vladimir Putin. Therefore, the only way to get to Assad is through Putin. There may be a way of doing this without fear of retaliation. We know that Putin is fanatical about sport, showcasing Russia's sporting prowess at every opportunity. The first step would be to persuade as many footballing nations as possible to withdraw from the World Cup. Or even to cancel it altogether. Then, persuade as many countries as possible to ban Russia and Syria from all international athletic events until Assad is brought to justice. Putin would put his Russian pride before ties with Assad.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

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Cat survives being thrown from 100ft up



The cat recovering from her injuries

A CAT suffered serious injuries after it was reportedly thrown from a 100ft block of flats.

The RSPCA is appealing for information about the cat after local authority CCTV controllers contacted the RSPCA to report that they had seen the cat falling from high up. It happened at a block of flats in Guild Close, Birmingham on April 6, and they had gone outside to find her lying injured on the ground.

They were even more concerned as they thought they had seen a person throw the cat but the footage was not clear enough to confirm. An RSPCA officer arrived to help the injured animal, and transported her straight to RSPCA Newbrook Farm Animal Hospital, as they could see she was seriously injured. The cat suffered a broken jaw and is being cared for by the hospital staff, who are hopeful she will make a full recovery in time.

RSPCA inspector Mike Scargill, said: "This is a very worrying incident and the cat is extremely lucky to be alive."

Tears for gig on hold

TEARS For Fears has rescheduled the band's planned gig in Birmingham due to health issues.

The 80s icons had been due to play Arena Birmingham on May 5. But due to "unforeseen health concerns and on doctor's orders", the band will now play a show in the second city next year, say promoters.

They will now perform at the Genting Arena on February 12.

Balance of power at borough on knife edge

LIST OF CANDIDATES

*party holding seat

Amblecote
Paul Bradley (Cons)*
Barbara Deeley (UKIP)
Peter Drake (Lab)
Ian Flynn (Lib Dem)

Belle Vale
Ian Cooper (Lab)*
Jake Cooper (Cons)
Bill McComish (Green)

Brierley Hill
Phil Atkins (Cons)
John Dyer (Democrats and Veterans)
Gordon Elcock (Green)
Zaraf Islam (Lab)*
Terry Thorn (UKIP)

Brockmoor and Pensnett
Clare Bramall (Lib Dem)
Rich Colley (UKIP)
Judy Foster (Lab)*
Sue Greenaway (Cons)

Castle and Priory
Martin Day (UKIP)
Alan Finch (Lab)*
Ryan Priest (Lib Dem)
Richard Tasker (Cons)

Coseley East - vacant
Josef Baker (Cons)
Bec Gentle (Lab)
Karen Jones (UKIP)
Catherine Maguire (Green)

Cradley and Wollescote
Pam Archer (Green)
Mitchell Bolton (UKIP)
Tim Crumpton (Lab)*
Kamran Razzaq (Cons)

Gornal
Mitch Barlow (Green)
Dave Branwood (Lab)
Bryn Challenor (Cons)
Roger Scott-Dow (UKIP)*

Halesowen North
Lois Bramall (Lib Dem)
Stuart Henley (UKIP)*
Joe Roberts (Cons)
Parmjit Sahota (Lab)

Halesowen South - vacant
Ray Burston (Cons)
Derek Campbell (Lib Dem)
James Walker (Lab)

Hayley Green and Cradley South
Andrea Goddard (Cons)*
Deleesh Patel (UKIP)
John Payne (Green)
Donella Russell (Lab)

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath
Jonathan Bramall (Lib Dem)
Damian Corfield (Lab)
Edward Lawrence (Cons)*

Kingswinford South
Taryn Bradley (Green)
Jay Griffiths (Lab)
Patrick Harley (Cons)*

Lye and Stourbridge North
Naz Ahmed (Green)
Euan Dunn (UKIP)
Pete Lowe (Lab)*
Thomas Ruff (Cons)

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's
Martin Berrington (Cons)
Dean Horton (UKIP)
Elaine Taylor (Lab)*
Alex Wright (Green)

Norton
Christopher Bramall (Lib Dem)
Colin Elcock (Cons)*
Monika Narad (Lab)
David Powell (UKIP)

Pedmore and Stourbridge East
Jon Dean (Lab)
Simon Hanson (Lib Dem)
Angus Lees (Cons)*
Glen Wilson (UKIP)

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood
Chris Barnett (Lab)*
Chris Blake (Cons)
Lee Taylor (Lib Dem)
Angela Walker (UKIP)

Sedgley
Bill Etheridge (UKIP)*
Mushtaq Hussain (Lab)
Shaun Keasey (Cons)
Elaine Sheppard (Lib Dem)

St James's
Khurshid Ahmed (Lab)*
Malcolm Davis (Cons)
Mick Forsyth (UKIP)
Benjamin France (Lib Dem)

St Thomas's
Jonathan Elliott (Cons)
Francis Sheppard (Green)
Steve Waltho (Lab)*
Phil Wmlett (UKIP)

Upper Gornal and Woodsetton
Lynette Corfield (Lab)
Chris Neale (Cons)
Dean Perks (UKIP)*
Kelly Richards (Green)

Wollaston and Stourbridge Town
Nicholas Barlow (Cons)*
Harriet Foster (Lab)
Andi Mohr (Green)

Wordsley
Kevin Billingham (Lab)
Paul Brothwood (UKIP)*
Donna Harley (Cons)
David Sheppard (Lib Dem)

VOTERS across the borough will head to the polls next week for a crucial round of local elections.

The balance of power in Dudley is on a knife edge, with the Conservatives currently controlling the authority thanks to an alliance with UKIP.

The town is considered a key marginal, and although the reds and the blues will again jostle for leadership, it is the purple party that held sway following last year's elections.

On May 3 a total of 24 seats are up for grabs - including five of UKIP's six seats on the council - in a poll that could see control change hands yet again.

Labour currently hold 35 seats, the Tories have 28, UKIP has six, and there is one independent councillor.

The Tories will defend seven seats to Labour's 10.

Two seats are vacant. Voters will head to the polls in Coseley East, where UKIP's Star Anderson stood down earlier this year, and Halesowen South, the seat vacated by Conservative Nick Gregory.

The leaders of the two main parties will go before voters.

Tory council leader Councillor Patrick Harley defends his Kingswinford South seat, and Labour group leader Pete Lowe is up for Lye and Stourbridge North.

The election also sees former Mayor and Labour council leader David Sparks step down after four decades in local government.

Some big names leave Sandwell Council in May

VOTERS head to the polls in Sandwell next week for the latest round of council elections.

Labour currently holds 67 out of 72 seats on Sandwell Council, with the four out of the five independent councillors being candidates from the red party when they were elected. There are 26 seats on the council up for election this year, 23 of which are held by Labour. The successful candidate in each ward will serve for the next four years.

Two seats are up for grabs in St Paul's. Babu Bawa is up for re-election, and there will be a by-election for the seat vacated by Preet Gill, who has stood down to focus on her work as the Labour MP for Edgbaston. It is a similar situation in Greet's Green and Lyng, where Gurcharan Sidhu's resignation has prompted a by-election.

Some big names are on the way out. Richard Marshall quit in Smethwick and Mahboob Hussain (independent Labour) is out in Oldbury. Current mayor Ahmadul Haque, who represented Tipton Green for 22 years, was deselected by Labour. The 86-year-old said: "I have always tried to serve the whole of the local community as best I can." Mr Haque says he plans to continue working as a community activist in the ward. Labour has picked Yaseen Hussain to contest the seat in his place.

In Wednesbury North, Tony Meehan, who was elected in 2014, is not standing this time. Philip Garrett, who left UKIP last year and has since served as an independent, is standing down in Princes End. In Bristnall Steven Frear, has decided to draw the curtain on his 12 year stint.

Below are Sandwell seats in the Halesowen Chronicle area.

*party holding seat

Blackheath
Bob Dunn (Cons)
Danny Millard (Lab)*
Aldo Mussi (Green)

Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Paul Connor (Green)
Robert Johns (Lib Dem)
Balhar Singh (Cons)
Julie Webb (Lab)*

Langley
Bill Gavan (Lab)*
Stephen Gilbert (Cons)
Robert Taberner (Green)

Old Warley
Bryan Manley-Green (Lib Dem)
John McHard (Cons)
Steve Trow (Lab)*

Oldbury
Mushtaq Hussain (Lab)*
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Snooker ace among the honours at mayor's ball

A WORLD class snooker champion, a youth campaigner and a renowned charity were among the winners in the Mayor's Civic Awards.

The Mayor Councillor Dave Tyler presented exclusive hand-crafted glassware to the winners at his annual charity ball on Friday evening.

More than 300 people attended the annual ball, sponsored by XL Windows 2000, at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill, which helped raise thousands of pounds for charity.

During the evening the Mayor presented awards in seven categories all supported by local businesses.

The Mayor's Pride of Dudley Award went to Mary Stevens Hospice who got the most votes when the award was put to the public online. Mental health campaigner Jon Mansell, from Dudley, and The Retreat Café in Dudley were runners-up.

Swimming

Dudley-born snooker star Reanne Evans picked up the Duncan Edwards award for sport, sponsored by Nordic Timber Group, for her achievements around the globe. She won the WLBSA Ladies World Snooker Championships 10 times.

Bernard Simkins won the runner-up prize for more than 40 years of service to Stourbridge Swimming Club.

Eve O'Connor won the William Shenstone award for environment, sponsored by Jessup Brothers, after helping Halesowen to the gold award in the Halesowen in Bloom competition for the past four years.

Hurst Green Park friends group chair Carol Hackett, from Halesowen, received the runner-up award after



Snooker ace Reanne Evans won the Duncan Edwards award for sport

helping bring in more than £10,000 of investment to the area and organising a series of clean-ups.

The Thomas Attwood award for education, sponsored by the School Travel Company, went to Maureen Smith, from Brierley Hill, who has dedicated the past 50 years of her life to Old Park Special School in a range of roles from cleaner to carer. Rhys Khan, from Stourbridge, won the runner-up award for his work with Dudley Youth Council.

The famous Teddy Grays company won the Mike Holder award for busi-

ness for promoting the borough all over the world with their historic, global brand. The runner-up award went to Lyn Kimpton who has helped build Stourbridge-based Klick Business Solutions into a thriving business.

The Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, sponsored by the GMB Union, went to Gurcharan Bhujhangy, from Halesowen, who has raised thousands of pounds for charity by organising events. Michael Peters took home the runner-up award for establishing a not-for-profit theatre company for young people.

Captain Andy Peters of the Army Reserve Centre in Dudley won the Frank Foley award, sponsored by the Dodd Group, for community spirit after spending years promoting the work of the armed forces and building links with communities across the borough.

Hospital

Eight-year-old Imogen Shuttleworth, from Stourbridge, won the runner-up award for her charity fundraising efforts raising thousands of pounds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Councillor Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley, said: "These are amazing people with so many incredible stories to tell. They go about their day helping people and making this borough better, and this is about giving them the recognition they deserve."

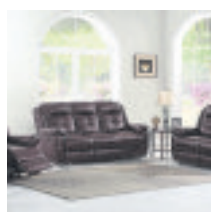
The James Bond themed ball as attended by a host of businesses, civic dignitaries and community group representatives.

The money raised from the night will be split between the Mayor's three charities - Dudley Mind, YMCA Black Country Group and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

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Strenth! Soldiers face tough test in the Outback

ARMY reservists from the Black Country have been sweating it out on gruelling exercises nearly 10,000 miles away in Australia.

Troops – including five from B Squadron Royal Yeomanry, known as the Black Country Cavalry – have been put through their paces in soaring temperatures.

As part of Exercise Morelandcourt, the reservists from Vicar Street HQ in Dudley, were working together with Australia's 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment on a 'highly testing exercise' in Queensland – in temperatures of up to 28°C (82.4°F).

Reservists of the Royal Yeomanry and the Australian 12/16 Hunter River Lancers, have been training in the light cavalry dismounted scout role as part of the operation. It featured M1 Abrams tanks, ASLAV armoured vehicles and PMV Bushmaster troop transporters.

Corporal Matt Smith, from Dudley, said: "This exercise has been the pinnacle of many weeks of training and preparation, and has been one of the most exhilarating and rewarding things that I have done in my military career so far."

Around 40 troops from the UK took part in the manoeuvres.



The drills featured both tanks and armoured vehicles during the exercise under a blazing sun in Queensland

Vet staff in pledge to support wildlife

STAFF from a veterinarian practice have pledged their support to wildlife throughout the year.

Clent Hills Vets, which has staff at Hagley, Bromsgrove and Redditch, has chosen Worcestershire Wildlife Trust as their Charity of the Year after a vote.

As well as joining the county-based charity as a corporate member, staff will also be helping to raise funds for wildlife as well as getting mucky on practical conservation sessions.

Mike Perry, Head of Resources for Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, said: "We're absolutely thrilled that Clent Hills Vets have chosen to support us this year. It's fantastic that all their staff are keen to do what they can to help wildlife in Worcestershire."

Three members of staff, Amy Holloway, Rebekka Fiorani and Helen Beesley, have already joined one of the Trust's volunteer groups when they visited Penorchard Meadows, near Hagley, for the day.

Police told to remove homeless posters

POLICE posters warning people against giving money to the homeless have been scrapped after being slammed by the crime commissioner.

The posters, put up in Stourbridge, Dudley and Sedgley, should never have been published says West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson.

The 300 posters, introduced in February as part of a campaign, carry the headline 'Your Kindness Could Kill' and show a crime scene outline of a body with coins.

The poster stated that giving money could actually keep people on the streets, claiming that 'in most cases' it would help them buy drugs.

The poster was also circulated via social media and as part of the force's neighbourhood alerts emails.



Error

Mr Jamieson said: "I did not and do not approve of the message."

"I've discussed (it) with West Midlands Police. They've been taken down after going up in error, they do not represent West Midlands Police's position either."

"They are insensitive, crass and shouldn't have been produced in the first place."

A West Midlands Police spokesman confirmed the posters had been taken down but said they had helped 'reduce the issue', adding: "Rough sleeping and homelessness is a national problem, here in the West Midlands we work alongside partner agencies to try to tackle this issue."

"A small number of posters were produced, following artwork used elsewhere in the country, in a bid to raise awareness and, in some areas, this has helped

The homeless poster

reduce the issue.

"We are aware that the poster may be deemed insensitive and as a result we are removing them from public places."

The posters were criticised by Vi Wood, who runs Leslie's Care Packages for the Homeless, helping people in the Black Country.

The 58-year-old, who set up the charity in response to her own experience being homeless following the death of her husband Les, said: "The message on the posters was definitely too strong. If you have 10 homeless people and two take drugs, the others who use the money to buy things like a coffee lose out. I'm pleased it has been dropped."

Mrs Wood, of Wollaston, goes on weekly patrols, providing clothing and food to between 10 and 20 people.

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Free cruise to New York

A LUCKY holidaymaker will be setting off on a transatlantic cruise for free after being named the winner of a competition by The Midcounties Co-operative Travel.

David Wayman from Wall Heath booked a transatlantic cruise holiday with Cunard, which sails from Southampton to New York, at the Co-operative Travel branch in the town. David won back every penny he paid for the trip, when he will be visiting his son who lives in the USA.

12 Beatrice hits high note to help others beat cancer

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018



Beatrice Edwards, during treatment

A CANCER survivor who received a life-saving bone marrow transplant from her brother has launched a musical campaign to help others.

Beatrice Edwards was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, one of the most common cancers among 13-to-24-year-olds, just two weeks before her 18th birthday.

She underwent several unsuccessful chemotherapy treatments before being told she would need a life-saving bone marrow transplant.

Now 22, the university student has launched a music-based campaign – which came to West Bromwich on Saturday on its latest leg.

"I had to drop out and put my A-levels on hold," said Beatrice of the time she found out her diagnosis, now in her final year studying for a media degree at Birmingham City University. She wants to help raise awareness of the importance of registering to give bone marrow as more than 70 per cent of sufferers rely on complete strangers for donations.

Beatrice says she was one of the lucky ones as her brother was a perfect donor match.

She has started her campaign by encouraging members of an orchestra she plays in, The People's Orchestra, to join the stem cell register and to hold a concert at West Bromwich Town Hall in support of the campaign. She also wants to raise awareness of the Anthony Nolan and DKMS Foundation stem cell trusts.

Orchestras interested in getting involved in the special concert and individuals wanting to sign up to the stem cell register can find out more at www.thegreatorchestraadventure.com.

There will also be a donor sign-up event with the Anthony Nolan charity at Birmingham City University's Curzon Building, tomorrow, Friday from noon to 4pm.

Goodbye to 'superstar' Mylee, aged 8

MOURNERS lined the streets to say goodbye to tragic schoolgirl Mylee Billingham.

The funeral of the eight-year-old, who was stabbed to death in Brownhills, saw hundreds of well-wishers fill St James Church and others stand outside.

Mylee died in hospital following the attack in Valley View on January 20.

Mourners were asked by Mylee's mother, Tracey Taundry, to wear 'all things bright and beautiful just as she was' in memory of the youngster.

Floral tributes were left at the church where the funeral was held yesterday. An emotional service, which was led by the Reverend Dave Bishop, heard how Mylee had made a 'big impact' on all those who knew her.

Afterwards the Rev Bishop said: "It's never easy doing a funeral, especially given the age of Mylee and the manner of her death. But I think it was great to see her whole family there and the community come together to celebrate her life."

During the service he said: "So we are all here today filled with a mixture of emotions – to remember a young lady who lived her life to the full."

Mylee loved dancing and among the tributes placed outside the church, was one addressed to 'Our little superstar'.

Mylee's father William Billingham has been charged with her murder.

Pride of Tipton – Uncle and aunt step up to keep orphaned brothers together

"It was an intense decision – but we had to step up and do what we could."

Those are the words of a selfless uncle who moved to the Black Country after a tragic double blow which saw his five nephews orphaned.

Gift Mpedzisi and his partner Ziyanda Mhambi quit their jobs and ended the lease on their home in Liverpool to start a new life in Tipton after Gift's five nephews were orphaned when their mother and father both died from cancer within five weeks of each other.

Makeda Ubiaro – Gift's sister – died in July, with her husband Omena passing

By David Cosgrove

away at the start of September from the same disease. In a heartbreaking video posted online from his hospital bed just days before his death, Mr Ubiaro said cancer was the 'toughest thing' he had ever had to face.

It left his sons Khariis, Josiah, Cairo, Ramiyah and Macaiah facing a future without either of their parents and with the possibility they would be split up and taken into foster care.

But Gift, 33, and his 36-year-old Zi-

yanda partner decided to do whatever they could to allow the boys to stay together as a family unit. That involved Gift quitting his degree at university in Liverpool and transferring to a criminology and law course at the University of Wolverhampton.

While Ziyanda, who is now pregnant, also left a full-time job to move south to look after the boys.

The couple have now been honoured with this year's Pride of Tipton award.

Gift explained: "They grew up together as a family. I didn't want them to be split up."



Ziyanda Mhambi and Gift Mpedzisi with their extended family

Work at super-hospital is set to resume in June

Report by Alex Ross

WORK to finish building the Midland Metropolitan Hospital could begin in June, with the Smethwick super-hospital opening to patients in 2020.

Toby Lewis, chief executive of the Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, said any further delay to the hospital would impact on the quality of care provided by the trust.

The hospital was due to open next year, combining acute and emergency services at Sandwell General Hospital and City Hospital in Birmingham. But the collapse of Carillion stopped work at the site in January, with the project two-thirds complete.

Work will remain at a standstill until a contractor is chosen by The Hospital Company – a stakeholder in the project – a move that will add £125m to the £350m hospital bill.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street revealed Swedish construction firm Skanska had been identified as the preferred new contractor.

Mr Lewis said: "What we really need to do now is get a contractor on site and get rebuilding. Obviously our PFI partner (The Hospital Company) has been seeking to do just that and they are moving toward their final proposals and those things need to be evaluated against all of the options."

"Every month of delay adds to the risk of quality in terms of what we are able to do. It is entirely possible to see people mobilising on the site in June. That sort of late-spring timetable is consistent with opening in 2020."

Underbid

The £125m increase in the cost of the project was down to three factors, said Mr Lewis. It had spiralled because of inflation, the prospective reassigning to new builders and the fact Carillion had underbid for the work.

But he stopped short of criticising the failed construction firm, which had 80 people working at the site. Sixty of those have been made redundant.

He said: "I'm not going to make any personal criticism of individuals, clearly the collapse of Carillion was a tragedy for the local economy and responsibility for that is being investigated. We worked really well with them."

Out of the remaining 20 workers from Carillion, 17 are now paid for by the receivers PwC, while three have transferred to The Hospital Company, which holds a stake in the construction project. A team of 15 security guards keep watch on the towering site. The shell of the building is complete and much of the fitting for some departments, including the A&E and maternity wards, have been done.

'Brilliant' Black Country business festival backed



Mayor of the West Midlands Andy Street, and Black Country Chamber of Commerce Corin Crane

THE biggest business event in Black Country history is up and running with the backing of the nation's Small Business Minister.

Leading figures from the worlds of business, education and politics attended the launch event at the Black Country Living Museum, marking the start of 122 events over the next two weeks aimed at celebrating the culture, commerce and innovation of the local area.

Corin Crane, chief executive of Black Country Chamber of Commerce, who launched the idea of the festival, said: "It's brilliant. Genuinely, I couldn't be more chuffed."

"We have a story to tell in the Black Country," he said, pointing out that the boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall and city of Wolverhampton are home to 36,000 businesses employing around half a million people. Small Business Minister and Black Country boy Andrew Griffiths added his support: "This is a

truly brilliant initiative on behalf of the Black Country."

Born in Coseley to a family that ran an engineering business, Mr Griffiths, now MP for Burton upon Trent, said: "You can take the lad out of the Black Country, but you can't take the Black Country out of the lad."

"As somebody who has been in business, somebody from this region, I know what a brilliant place this is, not just to live and work in but to do business."

He joked about having had just two hours sleep the night before – his daughter Alice was born just 13 days ago – and said: "I'm on paternity leave, but I had to be here."

And he recalled how he had been pictured, aged just 12, pulling pints at the Bottle & Glass pub at the museum back in 1981 when it was first opened by his father, then Mayor of Dudley.



Minister for Small Business Andrew Griffiths



The scene in the Black Country Living Museum

Mr Griffiths also hailed the £20 billion contribution the growing Black Country made to the UK economy, and spoke of the importance of businesses getting together at events throughout the festival to share best practice and improve productivity.

West Midlands Metro Mayor Andy Street also spoke of the Black Country's contribution to the wide regional economy, which was growing two and a half times faster than the rest of the country.

The Black Country Business Festival aims to showcase the best that businesses in Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall have to offer. A packed programme of business events will be taking place right across the region between now and May 3.

Tickets must be reserved in advance and they are available via www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com

Lost jobs see Carillion toll pass 2,200 – official receiver

THE jobs toll from the collapse of Carillion has now soared past 2,200 with another set of redundancies announced by the Official Receiver.

This week another 133 jobs have been saved with work transferred to new contractors, but 59 people are being let go.

The Wolverhampton-based group collapsed into compulsory liquidation in mid-January, causing chaos across hundreds of its construction and services contracts nationwide. Work

has been suspended at the £350 million Midland Metropolitan Hospital since Carillion's collapse, and it caused weeks of delays to the £700m Paradise redevelopment in Birmingham city centre.

But scores of contracts in the private and public sector have now been snapped up by new companies, preserving the jobs of more than 11,000 former Carillion workers.

A spokesperson for the Official Receiver said

on Monday: "A further 133 jobs have been saved with employees transferring to new suppliers who have picked up contracts that Carillion had been delivering. This takes the number of employees who have been found secure ongoing employment to more than 11,000."

"Regrettably 59 employees whose positions are no longer required as Carillion's business transfers to new suppliers will leave the business."

In total 11,093 jobs have been saved so far, and 2,221 have been lost. More than 3,700 people remain in limbo, currently retained by the Insolvency Service and its special managers, accountants PwC, to enable Carillion to deliver the remaining services it is providing for public and private sector customers.

The include around 180 people still working on HR and contract paperwork at the former Carillion HQ in Wolverhampton.

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14 'Despicable' crooks in charity con

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 26, 2018

SUSPECTED crooks have been posing as fundraisers for one of the Black Country's most-loved charities.

A warning has been issued after the would-be fraudsters knocked on doors claiming to be raising money for the Beacon Centre for the Blind.

Police are now investigating after 'despicable' reports of people going door-to-door in aid of the charity who tried to encourage people to start direct debits.

Beacon Centre bosses have said they do not fundraise on the doorstep and have urged homeowners to report any suspected fraud to West Midlands Police.

The charity, which has bases in Sedgley and Stourbridge, supports visually impaired people across the Black Country.

Sedgley ward councillor Michael Evans branded the alleged con artists as 'disgraceful' and warned residents – particularly vulnerable and elderly people – need to be on their guard.

Councillor Evans said: "I think this kind of behaviour is totally unacceptable. A lot of people would not hesitate to help the Beacon Centre for the Blind which is a fantastic and much-loved charity.

"The Beacon Centre has been going for such a long time and does tremendous work – for somebody to use its name for these purposes is disgraceful. If the police catch these people then they should throw the book at them – it is despicable."

A Beacon Centre spokesman said: "We have had reports of fake door-to-door fundraisers who are asking people to sign up to direct debits to support the Beacon Centre.

"Beacon does not fundraise door-to-door. Please report any suspected fraudulent activity to the police."

Charity chiefs have now passed details over to police investigators. Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Terror chief sacked after secret papers are stolen from his car

Law firm in three Peak climb for charity



Colleagues from Higgs & Sons have dubbed themselves 'The Peaky Climbers' and will tackle the three peaks challenge

AN intrepid group of legal professionals will be lacing up their boots to tackle the National Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for a Dudley mental health charity. Ten colleagues from Brierley Hill law firm Higgs & Sons have dubbed themselves 'The Peaky Climbers' – in a nod to popular BBC drama Peaky Blinders – and will raise funds for Dudley Mind, the firm's charity of the year.

They will climb Ben Nevis, Scafell

and Snowdon in 24 hours on July 6/7. Wearing peaked caps, they are John Heaton, Jamie Partington, Richard Griffiths, Craig Thomas, Katie Willems, Rachael Watkins, Jordan Hollingsworth, Laura Hackett, Jenny Bridgewater and Jade Williamson.

The team hope to raise £3,500 for Dudley Mind, a charity which aims to improve and promote recovery and wellbeing for people in the Dudley borough affected by poor mental health.

Ms Willems, a solicitor in the corporate team, said: "I have always wanted to do the National Three Peaks Challenge and when I suggested we do something for Dudley Mind I was overwhelmed by the support from colleagues. There are lawyers, non-lawyers and partners taking part, with Nick Taylor, our head of corporate, volunteering to drive the minibus."

To support them, visit localgiving.org/fundraising/peakyclimbers

A SENIOR counter-terrorism officer has been sacked after secret documents were stolen from his car has been sacked but he will keep his pension.

West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable Marcus Beale's pension became active just two weeks before the decision to dismiss him. He will receive a tax free lump sum thought to be around £215,000. The sacking decision by Chief Constable Dave Thompson was on recommendation of a disciplinary panel, which found him guilty of gross misconduct.

ACC Beale, aged 54, had left the classified documents, which included minutes from a high-level counter-terror meeting, in a briefcase in his car. He parked the vehicle at a train station while on a weekend away and at a supermarket while shopping. The theft was discovered by Mr Beale at a service station, five days after being given the documents.

Serious

Mr Thompson said: "The conduct in this case is a serious criminal conviction for improperly caring for documents. I agree (with disciplinary panel decision) that the misconduct in this case is serious and is very likely to undermine public confidence in policing."

Mr Beale, who was to retire on April 28, pleaded guilty last year to an offence under the Official Secrets Act, and was fined £3,500.

Mr Beale's counsel, John Beggs QC, had argued his dismissal would have been 'merely symbolic' in light of imminent retirement. Mr Beggs said: "Mr Beale's response to this ghastly realisation (that documents had been stolen) was swift, professional, selfless, and imbued with the characteristic that runs through him like Brighton rock – honesty and integrity."

He read testimonies on Mr Beale's character from high-profile names including national lead for coun-



Marcus Beale – gross misconduct

ter-terror policing, Mark Rowley, and Birmingham City Council leader Ian Ward. He added: "Having regard to this officer's particular contribution to policing, the chief constable would be entitled to conclude that dismissal is not necessary for the maintenance of public confidence in policing."

But Mr Thompson dismissed him, following the recommendation of the disciplinary panel, after finding him guilty of gross misconduct.

Mr Beale was fined £3,500 after pleading guilty to failing to safeguard information under the Official Secrets Act at magistrates court.

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Ted seen with his wife Linda in the countryside



Ted and Simon at Abbey Road Studios in London



Ted with fellow redcoats at Butlins in the 1970s



Ted performs on stage in 1975

Son's book is poignant tale of Ted the singer



The famous video clip of the carpool karaoke session

SINGALONG sensation Ted McDermott took the internet by storm when he and his son Simon sang carpool karaoke to millions online.

The Black Country-born pensioner, aged 80, lives with dementia but music helps him get back to his old self.

Now Simon, 42, has released a book about his dad's life in the 1940s as the eldest of 14 children in Friar Park, Wednesbury. The Songamminute Man, which was published this month, is a nostalgic memoir and heart-breaking account of a son struggling to come to terms with his father's dementia.

Everything changed for the pair when Simon turned the ignition on in his mother's car, hitting play on his father's favourite song Quando Quando Quando and they were driving around Blackburn – where they live now – singing at the top of their voices.

Simon filmed their adventure, uploaded the video to YouTube and woke up to messages, tweets and his phone ringing off the hook.

But despite landing a record deal, a Pride of Britain award, more than £130,000 raised for The Alzheimer's Society and a top 10 single, Simon was still 'losing' Ted.

He said: "I wanted to tell our story of dementia. We had a bad few years with dad's aggression and violence after he was diagnosed. I also wanted to write about how it affects the carers."

Set in the heart of the Black Country just before the Second World War, and written with the help of Ted's friends and family, The Songamminute Man recalls a boy who became a gutsy and fiercely loyal man. It recalls a childhood of sleeping top-to-toe, rationing, adventure in the woods

By Tom Oakley

and making-do-and-mending, a close-knit community, and a life-long passion for music. It is a celebration of the man Ted was, and a powerful and moving account of caring for a loved one. Simon added: "I didn't just want to write about dad and his dementia. It was important for me to tell his full story."

Ted was a performer throughout his life – he was a Butlin's Redcoat and then travelled around the country singing in clubs.

Simon said: "He worked in factories, but did promotions at Walsall football club and then gigging with Midlands group The Starliners. I interviewed his old bandmate Ben Beards who lives in Bilston."

"I decided to write his entire life story to basically show who he was, where he came from, his hopes and fears, passions and loves before the Alzheimer's struck. I guess the book is also my own personal therapy. you could say Alzheimer's took dad away but it also brought him back in that it gave me the opportunity to discover who he really was and what made him tick. The only tragedy is that he will never truly understand how many fans he has."

Visit the songamminute man.com website.

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Boss says action has been taken to improve A&E care

HOSPITAL bosses say vast improvements have been made at the urgent and emergency care at Russells Hall Hospital.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, has responded after a damning appraisal from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) concluded the trust needed to improve and raised concerns about A&E care.

Mrs Wake said they were disappointed by the findings of the CQC report but a Dudley improvement and comprehensive action plan had been put in place.

She said: "We are hoping to get to a point in the next few weeks where we can invite inspectors to come back into the trust. We feel we have put actions in place and we are much better. We are really disappointed by the findings of the CQC for the emergency department. We were inspected during one of the worst winters the NHS has seen but we are not using that as an excuse.

"Since the report we have recruited two emergency consultants and we have increased staff numbers in A&E department. There were concerns about how we manage sepsis and triage. We now have some of the best triage times in the Black Country. We have a dedicated sepsis team in the emergency department."

Hospital apologises after mother's death

BOSSSES of Russells Hall Hospital have apologised to a grieving husband after a mother-of-six was left waiting in the Dudley hospital's accident and emergency department for 12 hours before she later died from sepsis.

Natalie Billingham, 33, from Tipton, died in February after being admitted to A&E with suspected deep vein thrombosis.

Husband Stuart Billingham said the last time her six children saw their mother was when she got into the back of ambulance six weeks ago. He added: "My daughter made a joke saying you are not going to die are you mum and she said no of course not don't be silly."

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation trust has apologised after the death and launched an internal investigation.

Julian Hobbs, the medical director of the trust, said: "I would like to offer my heartfelt condolences to Stuart Billingham on the tragic loss of his wife Natalie, and I sincerely apologise on behalf of the Trust.

"Any unexpected death in hospital is referred to the coroner, and we conduct our own internal investigation to see if any lessons can be learned. This case is subject to a full and thorough investigation, which I am personally leading. I have met with Stuart and will meet with him again once the investigation has concluded to share the findings with him."

Mr Hobbs continued: "This is a very rare form of sepsis and difficult to diagnose, and we would typically only see three or four cases a year in the hospital.



Concerns raised about A&E at Russells Hall Hospital

"We took immediate action following Natalie's death. For example, our sepsis team support staff in A&E to spot the signs and take immediate and appropriate action. All our A&E staff have been retrained in sepsis management, and we audit sepsis four times a day so that we can intervene very quickly, if necessary."

Mr Billingham said his wife spent 12 hours in a cubicle before it was detected she had contracted sepsis in her foot. Her leg was amputated but her devastated family were later told the infection had spread too far and had caused organ failure.

Details of the tragedy came within hours of watchdog the

Care Quality Commission (CQC) releasing its findings that Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust needs to improve, warning that urgent and emergency care is 'inadequate'.

The trust's overall 'requires improvement' rating is the same as in its previous inspection four years ago. But the CQC report downgraded rankings for effectiveness and leadership, which were good in 2014 but now need to improve.

Inspectors levelled the harshest criticism at the trust's urgent and emergency care.

Inconsistent

The CQC's chief inspector of hospitals Professor Ted Baker said: "Our main concerns were with what we found in the urgent and emergency services, which we rated as inadequate overall. Triage processes were inconsistent and not exercised in line with the trust policy or national guidelines.

"Patients attending the emergency department did not always receive robust and sufficient assessment of their clinical presentation and condition. This posed a significant risk that life threatening conditions would not be identified and treated as quickly as they should have been."

The report said: "We found cases where patients had suffered serious harm because of lack of implementation and compliance with recognised systems."

Professor Baker said the trust also needs to improve staffing levels and described its governance as 'not robust'. But inspectors praised improvements maternity care and community services, as well as stroke care.



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Parents are fined for bad parking near schools

NEARLY 300 parents have been fined after being caught by a spy car introduced to crack down on poor parking outside school gates.

Parents in the Dudley borough have paid out more than £8,400 to date - as 284 fines were dished out between September 2017, and March 2018.

The Dudley Council camera vehicle has been out on the streets looking for evidence of bad parking outside schools.

By Dayna Farrington

The vehicle was introduced at the start of the new school term in September last year in a bid to improve children's safety. The move followed complaints about problem parking.

The camera only starts rolling when the car has driven over yellow zig-zag lines.

Once the car leaves the area the camera stops rolling. Council officers have then been tasked with sifting through the footage to catch the perpetrators.

Lives

Alant Lunt, the council's strategic director for place, said illegal parking by some motorists was 'putting the lives of children at risk'.

The most fines were handed out on Hillcrest Road, Kates Hill, near to St Joseph's Primary School. Fines were also issued to parents parking in Church

Road, in Coseley, outside Christ Church Primary School.

The spy car was also kept busy outside Netherton Primary School on Highbridge Road, Netherton, Blowers Green Primary School on Blowers Green Road, Dudley, and Castle High School on St James' Road.

Mr Lunt said: "We take safety around our schools extremely seriously, but the illegal parking by some motorists is putting the lives of children at risk."

"While, fortunately, the majority of drivers do park responsibly, there are still some who flout the law. The zig-zag lines are there for a reason, so children can see and be seen when going to and from school."

He added: "We will continue to use the CCTV vehicle on the streets around our schools, to help make them safer."

Five appear in court charged with murder

FIVE men accused of murdering Jaskaran Kang in Brierley Hill have appeared in Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Kang, 24, from Handsworth, was found fatally stabbed in a flat in Stourbridge Road on January 6.

Reggie Salmon, 20, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, Dontay Ellis, 18, of no fixed abode, and Joshua Campbell, 18, of King Edmond Street, Dudley, all appeared harged with Mr Kang's murder. Two 17-year-olds, who cannot be named for legal reasons, also appeared at court charged with his murder. The five did not enter pleas and spoke only to confirm names, addresses and dates of birth. They were remanded in custody due to appear at crown court on May 4.

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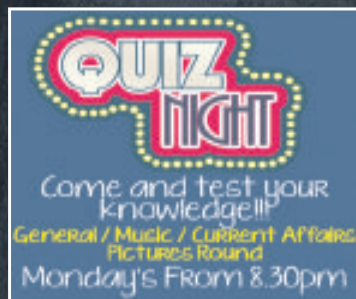


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Could it be magic? We really hope so

It's one of the most popular new musicals in Britain. The Band tells the story of what it's like to be in a boy band and was written by Tim Firth in conjunction with Take That stars, Gary Barlow, Howard Donald, Mark Owen, Robbie Williams.

The show opened at Manchester Opera House in September to critical and public acclaim. It comes to Birmingham Hippodrome from May 1 to 12.

For five 16 year-old friends in 1992, 'the band' is everything. Twenty five years on, we are reunited with the same group of friends, now 40-something women, as they try once more to fulfil their dream of meeting their heroes.

Tim is delighted it's proven so popular. "The band came about because Gary and I have known each other since pre-Take That. He went and did Take That and we kept in touch and then halfway through, when they first split up, he asked what I thought about doing a musical. I'd done Our House, the Madness musical, which I enjoyed because the lyrics and story worked. There was a story hidden in there.

"At first, I wasn't sure that was the case with Take That. The story and songs didn't match up, so we ditched it.

"And then they got reborn and this whole other catalogue of work emerged. It was bigger, longer and more mature. We were in this unique position of having this longevity with a gap.

"So the idea came up of doing it again and I still said 'no'. But gradually that changed and the story became about a female character, not the band. The words 'Take That' are never mentioned in the show."

SKETCH

Tim is used to writing hits. He grew up in Warrington before moving to study at Cambridge University, where his contemporaries included David Baddiel and Sam Mendes.

"David's one of my closest friends and he was the year above me. I wrote all the music for his shows and then my own. What Cambridge does is makes you write. Writers learn about writing by writing.

"We're not novelists. If you are writing for production or for sketch or comedy you have to get it out in front of people. The great thing about all universities, not just Cambridge, is that.

"But Cambridge also has a vibrant lineage, which encourages it. And it's so bloody big; it's like a small city in terms of colleges so it's very fertile in terms of cross pollination.

"You are meeting people from different backgrounds. I went to a comprehensive school in Warrington and ended up mixing with private school kids and people whose parents were in the business. The truth is, you have to brave it out and realise that you have three years to really use that time. Cambridge was very much a springboard."

One of Tim's biggest hits was Calendar Girls. The play was adapted by Tim from his own film and found favour with audiences across the UK during its 2008/09 tour, and in the process broke the all time British box office record for a play and also continued to sell out during its West End residency.

In 2010, the hit comedy embarked on a UK country wide tour, one of the largest ever for a play.

Tim says: "Calendar Girls is a very unusual piece. It touched people. A large percentage of the audience would have been touched by the brushes with the illness. What is fascinating about it for me is that the most moving part was the second act where people claw their way back to hope. The hope and the challenging of despair with wit, which is what the comedy was all about, really connects. We all know what it's like on stage to watch people suffer and die. That's been there for thousands of years.

"But the resilience of the human spirit and that fight to find light and comedy and repair relationships is the more moving. The audience are responding to hope, rather than despair. The tragedy is very quick in the first act. The

Fab five – The Band features the music of Take That



The words
'Take That'
are never
mentioned
in the show

rest is a gradual ascent into light and optimism and hope.

"When the idea came up for Calendar Girls, there were ideas of middle aged women taking their clothes off for a calendar, which is funny. But it won't get you through a full evening. We sensed there was something else behind it. It's the defiance and the ascent into light. It applies to all people, including those not stricken with illness. We've all suffered failures, like the break-up of a marriage, and then you have to decide how to react. What made the first one potent was that it was born out of tragedy."

Tim has strong connections with the West Midlands, having participated in courses run by the Arvon Foundation, which is based at the former home of Don't Look Back In Anger playwright, John Osborne, in Shropshire.

"My association with them began when I spent the most important week of time at uni at the Lumb Bank one. I turned up because it was run by Willy Russell, who'd just written Blood Brothers. I wanted to write musicals but we ended up having to write dialogue and I found that I enjoyed it and people laughed.

"When I went to university I went slightly with that wind under my wings. University is full of actors. I also met Sam Mendes there, who directed some of my stuff. I was able to learn very quickly in public what my failings and strengths were."

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Manic Street Preachers



Preaching resistance with the Manics' 13th album

WELSH rockers Manic Street Preachers hit a lucky 13 with their latest album *Resistance Is Futile* and a tour which brings them to Arena Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday).

Of their first album in four years, the band's Nicky Wire says: "The main themes of *Resistance Is Futile* are memory and loss; forgotten history; confused reality and art as a hiding place and inspiration. It's obsessively melodic, in many ways referencing both the naive energy of Generation Terrorists and the orchestral sweep of *Everything Must Go*.

"After delay and difficulties getting started, the record has come together really quickly over the last few months through a surge of creativity and some old school hard work."

Following the musical departures of 2013's largely acoustic *Rewind the Film* and the electronics of 2014's *Futurology*, *Resistance Is Futile* heralds a return to a classic Manics sound described by the band as "widescreen melancholia".

The songs on the album are the first recorded in the band's new Door to the River studio (near Newport). While not overly fixated by the current news cycle, the album does obliquely confront subjects such as predatory tech companies and the impact of the 2016 referendum on personal relationships.

Support at the city centre venue will be from The Wirral's psychedelic pop/rockers The Coral, who released their eighth album, *Distance Inbetween*, in 2016.

The heat is on for Cheryl and co



HORMONES and hilarity are the order of the day when a marvellously middle-aged celebrity cast will be featured in a popular musical which is returning to the region.

Following previous sell out UK and Irish Tours, and a triumphant return to Wolverhampton last month, *Menopause the Musical* will be at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre at 4pm and 7.30pm on Saturday. The show will also be staged at The Place in Telford on May 18 at 5pm and 8pm and at Stafford Gatehouse Theatre at 4pm and 8pm on May 24.

Armed with memory loss one-liners and innuendo-laden versions of pop classics, the tour has been filling venues around the UK.

Starring Cheryl Fergison, pictured, who was *EastEnders* favourite Heather Trott, Maureen Nolan, Casualty's Rebecca Wheatley and Hilary O'Neil, from ITV *Copy Cats*, the hysterical musical has entertained and inspired women across the world since 2001.

This hilarious celebration of women and 'The Change', is an all-singing, all-dancing comedy bringing together four women at a department store sale, who on first

appearance have nothing in common. However, the sale of a black lace bra soon stimulates comical female heart-to-hearts on hot flushes, night sweats, chocolate binges and plastic surgery.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Fergison has also been announced as one of the cast for Amanda Whittington's *Ladies Day*, a comedy about a memorable day at the races, being staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from July 13 to 28.

Her co-stars in this eagerly-awaited in-house production by the Lichfield Street theatre will include Deena Payne, Viv from Emmerdale.

Plan B heaven sent for Birmingham gig

It's been six years since Plan B, the alias for Ben Drew, pictured, last hit the road for a solo UK tour. Now he's back to preview the release of his new album, *Heaven Before Hell Breaks Loose*, which follows on May 4. The star will headline Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday) for a sell-out show.

Heaven Before Hell Breaks Loose is the rapper's first new album in eight years. His last record, *The Defamation of Strickland Banks*, hit number one and sold more than a million copies.



Explore and survive a frozen landscape

Games don't have to be all-action to enthrall, as shown by *Impact Winter*, the new survival game from Bandai Namco/Mojo Bones.

The player takes a God-like view from above as you help Jacob and his team of survivors as they try to survive in a post-apocalypse frozen landscape. The group are holed up in a derelict church and need to venture into the gloomy wintry landscape to find resources to keep them going until the promised rescue mission arrives. You will need wits and strategy, and keep one eye on your health meter, to make it but have help from a robot pal named Ako-Light. Trudging through the snow may not be all that appealing after the winter we just had but *Impact Winter* is an engaging and atmospheric PC game now also launched for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One.

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Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company build have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard. With Shaun Toub, Jon Favreau, Faran Tahir and Clark Gregg.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairys Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.50** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **6.20** **Ready or Not.** Crumpet the talking dog surprises a passer-by in Stratford, Quiztina quizzes the good people of Blackpool, and Sam and Mark are back in their Gameshow Lift. **6.50** **BBC News.** **7.00** **Regional Programme.** **7.10** **Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, with Denise Van Outen and Lydia Bright, Michelle Ackерley and Arthur Smith, Ann Widdecombe and Trevor Dwyer-Honey, and singing duo Foster & Allen. **8.00** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. **8.40** **Casualty.** Ethan is in danger of crossing a line with Leigh-Anne, while Robyn throws away a present from Glen after he questions whether she is fit to be in work. Bea wakes up in an alley calling for help, which comes in the form of nightclub bouncer Johnny, who initially refuses treatment for his own nasty cut. **9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue over whether they should buy their own home, while Grandad hopes to witness his own funeral. (R) **10.00** **BBC News: Weather.** **10.20** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Bournemouth v Southampton at the Vitality Stadium and Swansea City v Chelsea at the Liberty Stadium. **11.45** **The Button.** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R) **12.15** **Film:** City Slickers II: The Legend of Curly's Gold. (1994)

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Denzingers. (R) **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builders. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.45** Flipping Profit. (R) **1.30** Britain's Biggest Warship. (R) **2.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **3.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **4.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **5.30** Britain in Bloom. (R) **6.00** **Antiques Road Trip.** Arusha Irvine and Philip Serrell's challenge concludes in Gloucestershire as they take a Victorian marmalade cutter and a 16th-century bronze thimble to auction. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match concludes and another gets under way. **8.00** **The Forest.** Mark Bonnar narrates a documentary following the people who live and work in Galloway Forest Park, where 600,000 tons of timber is produced every year. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Classic comedy with the Home Guard. (R) **9.00** **Civilisations on Your Doorstep.** In a companion programme to Civilisations, classicist Mary Beard goes in search of extraordinary works of art from all over the world that can be seen in Britain. **10.00** **Performance Live: Akala Presents The Ruins of Empires.** A performance piece by Akala, using animation and emerging technology. **10.30** **The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story.** Andrew watches as the news of the murder of Gianni Versace breaks across the world's media, and he is named publicly as his killer. Last in the series. (R) **11.25** **Snooker: The World Championship.** Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match was set to come to a finish. Presented by Rob Walker. **12.15** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.15** Civilisations. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's meetings at Sandown Park, Haydock Park and Leicester. **4.00** Tipping Point. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.15** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.30** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Celebrity contestants including McFly's Harry Judd and Paralympian Dan Powell test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama – as they battle it out for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. **7.30** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the third heat of the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance. **9.20** **The Keith & Paddy Picture Show.** Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Pretty Woman. **9.50** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.05** **Film: Overboard.** (1987) A spoiled heiress suffers amnesia after falling off her yacht and is taken in by a carpenter, who claims to be her husband. Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. **12.15** Change Your Tune. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time: 2.00pm). **3.45** Car SOS. (R) **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **The Restoration Man: Best Builds.** George Clarke looks back at four memorable industrial conversions from the programme. A couple in rural Rothbury, Northumberland, battled through ill health to restore the 17th-century Thrum Mill, while two novices took on more than they bargained for with a pair of listed barns in Herefordshire. A free-spirited maverick worked single-handedly to restore an idyllic lchside ice house in Argyll and Bute, and in Hertfordshire, a young family toiled to find the perfect design solution to breathe new life into a Victorian pumping station. (R) **8.00** **Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of Tudor England by studying the history of Norwich, learning the harsh reality of religious intolerance and experiencing humiliating Tudor justice. **9.00** **Film: Iron Man.** (2008) Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company build have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr. **11.25** **Film: The Maze Runner.** (2014) A teen with no memory in an isolated community must find his way through a deadly labyrinth in search of freedom. Sci-fi adventure, with Dylan O'Brien. **1.30** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** Live Aviva Premiership Rugby Union. Gloucester v Bath (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.15** World's Scariest Animal Attacks. (R) **6.00** **World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera.** A tornado tears a mile-wide path through the city of Moore in Oklahoma, and flash floods in Glenidding in Cumbria push tonnes of rubble into the village. (R) **7.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Paul and Steve face a moral dilemma in south London, when they find out the tenant they have been instructed to evict is on his way to a funeral. Elsewhere, Stewart and Victor chase £1,000 from a debtor who has defaulted on his payment plan, but they are subjected to abuse and the police are called to a driveway standoff. Plus, two agents try to recover £1,600 worth of goods from the owner of an entertainment company after a wedding day dispute, and in west London, a landlady is owned £9,000 in rent arrears by a young mother. (R) **8.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Stewart and Elmore face the most challenging eviction of their careers, while Brian and Del chase £2,000 worth of debt owed by a business based in Kent. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Wolverhampton Wanderers v Sheffield Wednesday and Hull City v Cardiff City. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Wigan Athletic v AFC Wimbledon and Yeovil Town v Mansfield Town. **10.30** **Film: Dances with Wolves.** (1990) A soldier alone at a remote outpost is adopted into a Sioux tribe during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning Western, directed by and starring Kevin Costner. With Mary McDonnell. **1.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Jack the Ripper: Missing Evidence. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **8.00** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.35** Land of the Lost Wolves **11.35** Top of the Pops: 1985 **12.05** Jeff Beck: Still on the Run **1.35** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **2.35** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.35** Close
ITV2
11.45 Britain's Got More Talent **12.45** Ninja Warrior UK **1.45** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.25** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) **5.45** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Plebs **2.25** CelebAbility **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
12.55 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.00** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Vera **1.05** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.50 Film: Chisum (1970) **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** Film: Chisum (1970) **3.05** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **3.35** Mr Bean **4.10** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.25** Film: Moonraker (1979) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: Moonraker (1979) **9.25** FYI Daily **9.30** Film: Safe House (2012) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Safe House (2012) **11.20** Film: American Gangster (2007) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25** Film: American Gangster (2007) **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 The Goldbergs **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** Young Sheldon **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **10.30** The Inbetweeners: Fan Favourites **1.15** Gogglebox **2.20** Tattoo Fixers **3.15** Rude Tube **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **4.50** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** The Book of Life (2014) **2.50** Multiplicity (1996) **5.05** Enemy Mine (1985) **7.10** Chronicle (2012) **8.50** Beast Interview Special **9.00** Non-Stop (2014) **11.05** Horns (2013) **1.25** The Raven (2012) **3.40** Close

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CHOICE



Bob Hawkins

Britain's Biggest Warship (BBC2, 8pm)

The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the vessel's sea trials, testing an innovative new firefighting system for the first time and marking the 100th anniversary of a plane being successfully landed on a moving ship. The carrier returns to Portsmouth, which will be its home port for the next 50 years, while the pilots of its fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Rip Off Britain: Food. (R) **1.00** 580 News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** The Truth About Obesity. (R) **3.00** Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the semi-final from Glasgow, where the contestants must demonstrate their skill at capturing movement by painting athletes in action. For the first challenge, they must depict an endurance runner and a cyclist, while the final test involves gymnast's floor and beam routines.

7.00 **Countryside.** Matt Baker is in Cornwall, where he meets a blind man walking from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for charity, planning to catch the first day of spring at each point of his journey. Ellie Harrison reports on a project to bring back beavers to the county's riverbanks. Steve Brown goes looking for seasonal marine life, and Tom Heap investigates high rates of suicides among farmers.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce hosts the show from Floors Castle in south-east Scotland, and discovers the story of an American heiress who donated a collection of fine art to the estate.

9.00 **The Woman in White.** Laura is forced into marriage to Sir Percival in spite of her love for Walter, and soon realises that her fiancé has a dark side.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Arsenal at Old Trafford and West Ham United v Manchester City at the London Stadium.

11.30 **The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **11.00** Triathlon World Series: Bermuda. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 **Super Fast Falcon.** The peregrine falcon is the fastest animal on earth, able to reach speeds of more than 200mph. But what does it take to be a high-speed record-breaker? This documentary follows a young family of falcons as they grow up in Chicago. It also meets renowned bird handler Lloyd Buck as he puts his peregrines to the test, using state-of-the-art technology. He also trains one young peregrine for the ultimate challenge of speed and agility, racing an Olympic skier in the Swiss Alps. (R)

7.00 **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continue.

8.00 **Britain's Biggest Warship.** The crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth completes the sea trials and returns to Portsmouth, while the pilots of the fighter jets go to the US for additional training. Last in the series.

9.00 **My Year with the Tribe.** Will makes his final two trips to Korowai territory and attends a traditional festival. On his return to the village, he finds himself in a dangerous situation. Last in the series.

10.00 FamAlam. Comedy sketch show.

10.20 **Josh Widdicombe: What Do I Do Now.** A recorded performance of the comedian's show at the Hammersmith Apollo, in which he vents his frustration at everything from an overflowing shopping to his contactless debit card. (R)

11.20 **Snooker: The World Championship.** The concluding session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two second-round matches continued. Presented by Jason Mohammad.

12.10 Snooker: World Championship Extra.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Shara's Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** ITV News: Weather. **11.40** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **12.55** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **1.55** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.25** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **3.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs - India. (R) **4.00** The Real Camellia: HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian hosts the madcap panel show, with Johnny Vegas, Jimmy Osmond, Sue Johnston and Samantha Giles tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)

6.30 ITV News: Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme: Weather.

7.00 **Little Big Shots.** Dawn French meets the UK's youngest town crier, a group of Spanish flamenco dancers, a US string trio and a six-year-old who wants to be a surgeon.

8.00 **The Durrells.** Henry Miller comes to stay with the family, and stirs up tension among Louisa and her children with his strange behaviour and the controversial content of his books.

9.00 **Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** Trevor McDonald and Julie Etchingham present a look ahead to the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, and go behind the scenes on previous royal ceremonies.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 **Last Laugh in Vegas.** The nine British entertainers have spent more than a week rehearsing for their dream gig, but they question whether the show should go on after a tragedy hits Las Vegas. (R)

12.10 This Time Next Year. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** Take on the Twisters. (R) **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The King of Queens. (R) **6.30** The King of Queens. (R) **6.55** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.55** Eat the Week. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Build Up. A preview of the fourth round of the season. (Start-time 1.10pm). **3.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the fourth round of the season. (Start-time 1.10pm). **4.30** Car SOS. (R) **5.30** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 **Escape to the Chateau.** Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree continue their renovation of a French chateau, 18 months after the end of the first series. So far, only nine rooms have been renovated and many areas of the 12-acre estate have yet to be looked at - but the project is going to have to start paying for itself soon. They make plans to host weddings on the grounds, while looking ahead to keeping livestock and growing their own crops. Dick takes steps to generate solar power during a hot summer, and turns an old oil tank into a pig roaster. (R)

8.00 **The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides a team from a school for deaf people through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges on their way to the Crystal Dome. Last in the series.

9.00 **Homeland.** Saul's mission is given the greenlight. The clock is ticking on the Keane administration. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel.

10.05 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by David Baddiel and Trevor Noah. Joey Essex is in Dictionary Corner and Alex Horne and the Horne Section help Rachel Riley. (R)

12.00 **Film: The Voices.** (2014) Comedy crime thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds. **2.00** **Film: Happy Bhag Jayegi.** (2016) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Diana Penry. **4.10** Come Dine Champion of Champions. (R) **5.05** Building the Dream. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Milkshake!: Little Princess. (R) **6.20** Milkshake!: Little Princess. (R) **6.25** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.30** Moby. (R) **6.35** Simon. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.15** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.40** FIA Formula E. **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Film: Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole. (2010) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Jim Sturgess. **3.30** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **4.30** 5 News Update. **4.35** Film: Zookeeper. (2011) Concluded. **5.25** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

7.00 **Biggest Dog in the World.** Documentary meeting three households with Great Danes. Essex woman Claire, whose canine companion is so huge, potential boyfriends do a runner once they see him, a US family who had to super-size their lives to accommodate Rocky, and Welshwoman Julie, who paid a high price for her 20-year canine obsession when her marriage ended. The film also reveals the pros and cons of owning giant dogs, including the crippling costs of more than £12,000 a year, constant care for a pet that cannot be left for longer than four hours at a time and extreme domestic destruction. (R)

8.00 **Before They Were Stars.** Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-advised forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness. (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Greatest TV Talent Show Moments.** Memorable moments from TV talent shows, including Ann Widdecombe on Strictly Come Dancing to Susan Boyle's unexpected success.

12.00 **Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind-Ups.** (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Mountain **9.00** Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day **10.00** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.30** Timelapse: A Day at the Zoo **12.30** How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell **1.30** Mountain **2.30** Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day **3.30** Close

ITV2
12.05 Film: Babe (1995) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Babe (1995) **1.55** Film: Twister (1996) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: Twister (1996) **4.05** Britain's Got Talent **5.25** Britain's Got Talent **6.25** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.30 Inspector Morse **4.00** Lewis **6.00** Film: Agatha Christie's Sparkling Cyanide (2003) **8.00** Les Dawson: An Audience with That Never Was **9.00** The Murder of Stephen Lawrence **11.00** Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.40** Blue Murder **3.15** Road to Avonlea **4.50** George and Mildred **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
6.20 Pawn Stars **6.50** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **9.00** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986) **11.40** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45** Film: Maximum Conviction (2012) **1.50** It's Not Rocket Science **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.35 Film: Animals United (2010) **1.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Film: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners: Fan Favourites **12.55** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Rude Tube **Film4**
11.00 The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **1.00** Magic in the Water (1995) **3.00** Anastasia (1997) **4.50** Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation (2015) **11.35** Fifth (2013) **1.30** 52 Tuesdays (2013) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Deadly Dance Mom, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman takes extreme measures to ensure her daughter wins a scholarship to an exclusive dance academy, but the mother of the victim of her scheme will do whatever necessary to protect her own daughter from her rival's evil plan. Thriller, starring Christina Cox and Beverley Mitchell. (2017)

TUESDAY

Running for Her Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Amateur triathlete Alison Wynn hires a controversial trainer who uses hypnotherapy as a training technique and begins to improve physically, but the return of repressed memories takes a toll on her family life. Alison's daughter soon grows concerned and works to save her mother from the psychologically-manipulative coach. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health subsequently begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness. Drama, starring Emily Osment. (2013)



No Strings Attached, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

THURSDAY

Murder She Baked: A Deadly Recipe, Channel 5, 3.15pm

When a sheriff is killed during election time in small-town Minnesota, local bakery owner Hannah sets out to solve the crime and clear the name of her brother-in-law, who has been falsely accused of the murder. Mystery, starring Alison Sweeney, Cameron Mathison and Barbara Niven. (2016)

FRIDAY

No Strings Attached, BBC1, 11.50pm

Two childhood friends run into each other and end up sleeping together. Neither of them is interested in committing to a relationship, so they agree to keep things purely sexual. But despite their best efforts, they start to fall in love. Romantic comedy, starring Natalie Portman, Ashton Kutcher, Kevin Kline, Cary Elwes, Greta Gerwig, Lake Bell, Olivia Thirlby and Chris 'Ludacris' Bridges. (2011)

Eight more singletons begin their journey to find love

For many nine-to-five urbanites caught in the rat race, countryside living is just a pipe dream. But could falling in love be the key to making that dream a reality?

In this new series, Sara Cox is going back to her farming roots in the hope of helping single people living and working in Britain's rural areas find love with urbanites also seeking their perfect partner – as well as a dramatically different lifestyle.

A reliance on the land for their livelihoods, and being based within small rural communities, has limited a lot of countryside singletons' chances of finding love and someone to share the stunning scenery with.

Over the next six weeks we will get to know Paul, a farmhand from Worcestershire, and fellow thirtysomethings Christine and Richard, both cattle and sheep farmers from Dumfries and Galloway.

They are joined by Ed, 25, a dairy farmer from Lancashire, plus farrier

Mark from Norfolk, Wendy, a pig farmer from Herefordshire, and Yorkshire farmer Pete, who are all in their 50s.

Equine vet Heather, 28, from Yorkshire completes the line-up.

All eight have posted their dating profiles online in the hope of attracting urban singles.

On the other side of the coin, there are a growing number of city dwellers longing to escape the smoke and migrate from town to country every year.

It all sounds very tempting, but what is the reality of adapting to a new back-to-basics setting away from all the trappings of a town or city?

Cox joins the potential couples as they negotiate getting to know each other, while the urban love-seekers grapple with wellies, the wild outdoors and woeful Wi-Fi.

"As a farmer's daughter living in the capital I'm really excited about uniting rural folks with people from the city," the 43-year-old presenter, who spent her formative years living on her family's farm in Little Lever,

near Bolton, before pursuing a broadcasting career in the bright lights of London, says.

"I can't wait to journey over hill and dale, through Britain's glorious countryside on my mission to hopefully help love blossom for the people who work the land, lovingly tend their animals but may have neglected their own hearts.

"It's definitely tough living and working as a farmer," added the mother-of-three.

"You have to work such long hours on the farm and if you are in the middle of nowhere, it doesn't leave much time to go out looking for love.

"Obviously whomever you do find has to realise that farming is a vocation, you've got to love it and love the land.

"It's a big responsibility, it's hard work and you've got a lot of animals or crops to look after. Love In the Countryside is such a brilliant idea..."

So once the singletons have been matched up, will the change in pace be everything the city dwellers had always imagined?



Love In the Countryside, Wednesday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Tricks of the Restaurant Trade

Channel 4, 8.30pm

New series. The return of the programme that offers an inside guide to eating out, providing insights, investigations and campaigns to improve viewers' dining experience. In the first edition, Simon Rimmer finds out about Starbucks' research and development programme and meets the people who decide what its customers will be eating and drinking in the future. A woman and her son test whether phone apps can speed up service, and reporter Adam Pearson hits the high street with the latest trend in bottled water.

TUESDAY

My F-ing Tourette's Family

Channel 4, 9pm

One in 100 children have some form of Tourette's Syndrome - that is the same amount as children with autism. But despite it being relatively common condition, the general public know very little about it. For example, less than 10 per cent of people with Tourette's swear (that is known as coprolalia), and no two people with TS will have the same tics - each person is as different as every snowflake. This documentary should hopefully raise awareness and educate the public more about Tourette's, which was

named after French physician Gilles De La Tourette and is an inherited neurological disorder five times more likely to affect males than females. Cameras follow Hayley and Richard Davies-Monk, and their sons Spencer, 13, and Lewis, nine. They're an Oxfordshire family who confront the daily challenges of living with the boys' uncontrollable physical and verbal 'tics' that can include inappropriate or taboo phrases.

WEDNESDAY

Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport

ITV, 8pm

The second-busiest airport in the world (in terms of international passengers) opens its arrivals gates once more for the ITV cameras, demonstrating the challenges faced by both staff and passengers as they go about their business of either getting where they need to go, or checking that those passing through are in safety and obeying the rules. In tonight's opening episode of the fourth series, passenger experience manager Demi has a hard time placating some disgruntled travellers, and check-in attendants Carrie-Anne and Selina have some broken baggage belts to

contend with. And a young Brazilian student wants to enter the UK to visit his brother, presenting Border Force agent Bob with a dilemma.

THURSDAY

Britain's Best Home Cook

BBC1, 8pm



Britain's Best Home Cook, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

Mary Berry is back on the box. Not that it feels as if she's ever been away. Some may have thought that her TV career would slow down after The Great British Bake Off moved to Channel 4 without her, but not a bit of it. Instead, she's become one of the BBC's major faces, and its bosses are hoping she can turn this new series into a success. Claudia Winkleman hosts, while Berry heads a judging panel that also includes chef Dan Doherty and omnipresent produce expert Chris Bavin. Ten talented home

cooks enter the competition tonight, desperate to prove they're the best in Britain. They'll be challenged to prepare classic dishes, often with their own personal spin, with the least impressive asked to leave the contest each week.

FRIDAY

Our Wildest Dreams

Channel 4, 8pm

Cameras follow Lyndon and his pregnant wife Ruth as they give up their careers in the UK to plough their life savings into starting a new business running a safari lodge in the Zambian outback. The couple soon find themselves in primitive conditions, surrounded by deadly lions, elephants and crocodiles.

Lethal Weapon

ITV, 9pm

The LAPD finds itself on the hunt for a thief from a local jewellery heist. Even though the case may look fairly pedestrian from the outset, Riggs and Murtaugh soon get a reminder that all that glitters is not gold and suddenly this straightforward looking case begins to evolve into something deeper. Murtaugh is erroneously called 'grandpa' by another parent while at the playground, sending him into a spiral of insecurity.



The Times



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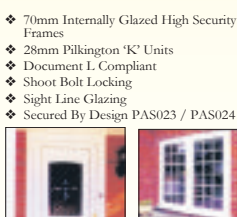
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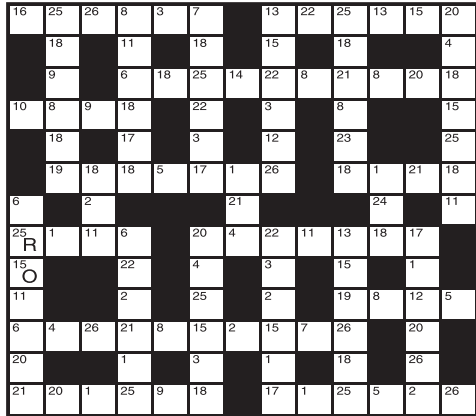


BRAIN GYM

No.477

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	X	2	T	3	Z	4	G	5	J	6	U	7	P	8	S	9	C	10	H	11	V	12	Y	13	F
14	K	15	D	16	M	17	O	18	L	19	I	20	A	21	W	22	N	23	R	24	B	25	E	26	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

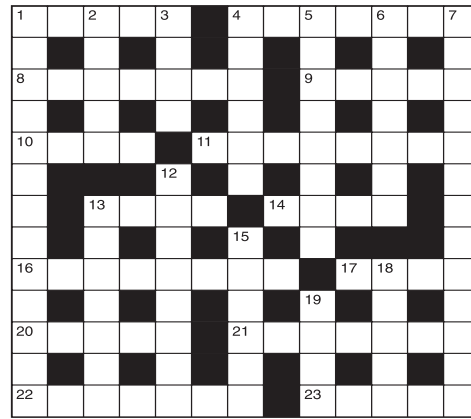
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1 & 21Ac. Flimsy beam beneath the track is one that's easily stirred (5,7)
 4 & 8Ac. It's delivered after somebody has departed (7,7)
 8. See 4 Across.
 9. You'll find me leaving unusual memento for the artist (5)
 10. Part of the rosary, we hear, for ancient monk (4)
 11. What the ringers make, sounds like a stupid mistake (8)
 13. Masses of boisterous scoundrels make them, initially (4)
 14. Unfinished antic to cause astonishment (4)
 16. As a flag raiser, he comes second (6-2)
 17. Even contest to attract the crowds? (4)
 20. The vessel 'Cathy' capsized (5)
 21. See 1 Across.
 22. Don't expend so much - it's futile (7)
 23. Staffs living in eastern Europe (5)

Down

- 1 & 19Dn. Sound advice for bounders (4,6,3,4)
 2 & 4Dn. Certainly not a poor start to the show (5,6)
 3. Neat cut (4)
 4. See 2 Down.
 5. Propose for the post when there's a main change in correspondence (8)
 6. Sprinted to make progress in Burma (7)
 7. The output of a book factory! (8,5)
 12. Certainly not one in attendance (8)
 13. Handcuff Maclean somehow (7)
 15. Gives patient attention (6)
 18. Drive back the first of the protesters in the film (5)
 19. See 1 Down.



Quick Clues:

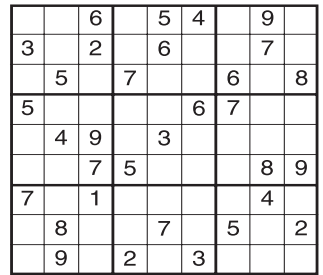
Across

1. Covetousness (5)
 4. Bevel (7)
 8. Attribute (7)
 9. Hurl (5)
 10. Uninteresting (4)
 11. Familiarise (8)
 13. Average (4)
 14. Hitch (4)
 16. Swamp (8)
 17. Overtake (4)
 20. Dodge (5)
 21. Outlive (7)
 22. Disloyalty (7)
 23. Squeeze (5)

Down

1. Bombastic (13)
 2. Surpass (5)
 3. Platform (4)
 4. Close tightly (6)
 5. Wealthy (8)
 6. Fault (7)
 7. Piety (13)
 12. Innocuous (8)
 13. Degree (7)
 15. Jail (6)
 18. Nimble (5)
 19. Grasp (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	3	2	9	8	6	7
8	9	3	4	6	7	5	2	1
6	7	2	5	8	1	9	4	3
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
7	2	6	8	3	4	1	9	5
5	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	6
3	8	7	1	9	6	2	5	4
1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	9
2	5	9	7	4	3	6	1	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Profusion; 8 Elan; 9 Slowcoach; 10 Formal; 11 Asses; 14 Rifle; 15 Rapt; 16 Stabs; 18 Ewer; 20 Cadet; 21 Reach; 24 Tailor; 25 Cracked up; 26 Oslo; 27 Come round.
 Down: 1 Performer; 2 Fair offer; 4 Roll; 5 Fawns; 6 Sooner; 7 Once; 9 Sales; 11 Awash; 12 Sandglass; 13 Stateroom; 17 Scrap; 19 Rescue; 22 Credo; 23 Ergo; 24 Turn.
 QUICK - Across: 3 Statement; 8 Form; 9 Animation; 10 Energy; 11 Pored; 14 Mince; 15 Rent; 16 Event; 18 Toss; 20 Arise; 21 Scope; 24 Demand; 25 Diversion; 26 Mean; 27 Defendant.
 Down: 1 Aftermath; 2 Greenness; 4 Tiny; 5 Tempo; 6 Matter; 7 Noon; 9 Agree; 11 Piece; 12 Dedicated; 13 Attendant; 17 Taken; 19 Scheme; 22 Posed; 23 Hide; 24 Down.

Quiz

- Of what is a pascal a unit?
- Which Hindu festival's name means 'garland of lamps'?
- What are the names of Gemini's twins?
- Which Red Indian tribe has the largest reservation in the USA?
- What does the legal term 'sub judice' mean?
- Where are the annual Diamond Challenge Sculls held?
- Which royal turned down the part of Boadicea in a Ken Russell film?
- Which singer was born Asa Yoelson?
- What type of pet is the Mongolian jird?
- What is the fruit of the Prunus armeniaca tree?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Liz Taylor; 2 Egypt; 3 Yesterday;
 4 A bird; 5 Iona; 6 January 6 ; 7 Dance;
 8 Manna; 9 Thailand; 10 1956.

Niner: MISQUOTED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

974329
 94279
 351678

gives a fish,
 gives a second fish,
 gives a fish soup.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Om! Go Greek for total relaxation

AS I set up my mat between ancient trees that poke through the circular wooden Armonia yoga deck – which means harmony in Greek – my lungs are grateful for the fresh mountain, forest and sea air.

I perform sun salutations while birds chirp away in the treetops, and waves softly crash on the shore below. I'm watched solemnly by one of around a dozen adopted cats that roam F Zeen resort.

Hidden away on an Ionian hillside, in the shadow of Mount Ainos, nestled into sloping forest that rolls down onto Lourdas seafloor, this adult-only wellness retreat enjoys the best of Kefalonia's bewitching landscapes.

Why is Kefalonia a recharge retreat? Kefalonia – the largest of the cluster of Ionian Islands dotted along the west coast of the Greek mainland – is also one of the least densely populated. It is incredibly green and lush, with Mount Ainos – the dramatic backdrop that towers above F Zeen – classified as the only national park on a Greek island.

What's the F Zeen story? F Zeen was a term in ancient Greek used to sum up 'the good life', and the resort does everything it can to promote that. Open for its first full season in 2016, it's truly a family affair, with mother, father, sons and daughter all involved in the day-to-day running.

Matriarch Suzanne Koumoudos, who with her Greek husband Dennis owns a sprawling collection of luxury Kefalonian villas, tells me that food has always been a huge family passion, and that when they went on holiday, they were always looking for a hotel with a gym, so they could indulge.

And so the idea for F Zeen was born. With pared back yet luxurious nature-inspired rooms, three freshwater swimming pools, Jacuzzis, a spa, daily group gym and yoga classes, it's an inspiring place to slow down and reconnect with yourself.

So tranquil – the yoga deck at F Zeen



Do you need to be a yoga bunny to enjoy the space? Yoga teacher Anastasia Koumoudos gently guides groups through a series of rejuvenating and relaxing poses, but guests can use the equipment whenever they like. For the more adventurous, aerial yoga sessions can be arranged.

A split-level outdoor gym – complete with cardio machines, free weights, personal training sessions and a sublime sea view – is also available. Steps away from the retreat at F Zeen's on-the-beach activity hub, guests can take out paddleboards and kayaks for no extra cost.

Relax by the pool or the restaurant terrace



They can also borrow bikes and maps of local hikes.

What's the spa like? The spa uses organic seaweed from the Irish Sea, sourced by the family-run company Voya. A small team of therapists use hand-harvested leaves in treatments, including baths, massages, masks and wraps for their antioxidant and anti-ageing properties.

What's the food like? F Zeen now boasts two restaurants which offer healthy Greek dishes with a modern twist, using recipes passed down by the Koumoudos family's grandmother.

What else is there to do?

Kefalonia is famed for its honey, and a trip to the nearby Dias Apiary (£14) – a 20-minute drive from the retreat – proves to be an unexpected delight. We hear fascinating anecdotes about the winged creatures 'dancing'.

If bees aren't your thing, a plethora of other activities are on offer. The ruins of the Sissia monastery are just over a 30-minute walk away. The monastery is believed to have been founded by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.

JEMMA CREW

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Classified Ads

6 Property

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●● UNDERGOING A REFURBISHMENT ●● Attractive & improved traditional cottage style terraced house. Large lounge/dining area, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 spacious double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, parking to front & large rear garden. EPC: D



STOURBRIDGE/LYE, Stourbridge Road£575 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 3 bedroom mid terraced property with off road parking to the rear, close to local amenities and main bus routes. The property is well presented and comprises of: entrance porch, hallway, lounge with feature fireplace, modern kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, private rear garden. EPC: D



LET

HALESOWEN/COLLEY GATE, Mapletree Lane£575 pcm+Fees
An end of terrace in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School, bus links to Halesowen and Stourbridge. The property features 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden. A property not to be missed! EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Harvington Road£575 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre. Set in a quiet block with communal gardens and parking for 1 car. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, large lounge with a bay window, bathroom with shower, kitchen with a small under counter fridge. EPC: C



LET

AMBLECOTE, Dennis Hall £575 pcm+Fees
A luxury 1st floor apartment in a sought after historic building. Featuring a secure gated entrance and 2 allocated parking spaces, a splendid communal hallway, open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, en suite to master bedroom, large bathroom with shower, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal garden. A property not to be missed. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Century Way£550 pcm+Fees
A superbly positioned modern 2nd floor apartment in this popular location overlooking woodland & having spacious accommodation, entrance hallway, lounge, separate fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 double bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom with shower. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: C



WORDSFLEY, Wordsley Court£525 pcm+Fees
1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue£495 pcm+Fees
A luxury 1st floor apartment in a sought after historic building. Featuring a secure gated entrance and 2 allocated parking spaces, a splendid communal hallway, open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, en suite to master bedroom, large bathroom with shower, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal garden. A property not to be missed. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Stourbridge Road£495 pcm+Fees
A lovely ground floor flat that has been fully re-furbished to a very high standard. Within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring large living room, kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, beautiful shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: D



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£450 pcm+Fees
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished, 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT REQUIRED. EPC: E



LET

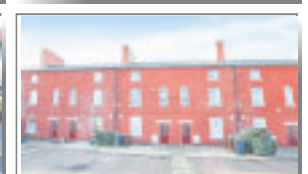
STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£425 pcm+Fees
A stunning part furnished apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Upper High Street£395 pcm+Fees
Modern 1st floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit ● 1 months rent in advance. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Upper High Street£395 pcm+Fees
Modern ground floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit ● 1 months rent in advance. EPC: C



WOLVERHAMPTON, Penn Road£375 pcm+Fees
A ground floor 1 bedroom apartment having excellent transport links to Wolverhampton. The accommodation benefits gas central heating and comprises a reception hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, 1 bedroom, fitted shower room, all access by a secure communal reception area. EPC: TBC

Good looking with sporty tweaks

By Carmel Stewart

The Vauxhall Insignia GSi brings us right back to the days when the roads weren't crowded with cars, the motorways weren't constantly at a standstill and driving still had an element of fun.

With improved rigidity and much lighter than the previous holder of the 'performance' rosette, the Insignia VXR*, this new model handles brilliantly, whether on the track or the open road – remember them?

It is available either as a Grand Sport hatchback or a Sports Tourer estate. Both are good looking, with aerodynamic styling; the added sporty tweaks and twirls and serious re-engineering have combined to make this a driving experience which balances performance and comfort – flattering some and stretching others.

Styling cues include GSi front and rear body styling and side sills with a large rear spoiler, 20-inch alloys and tinted rear windows.

The chassis has been lowered by 10mm as compared to the standard Insignia, while special springs, dampers, tyres, wheel hubs, stabilizer bar, Brembo brakes and drive shafts have all been added with performance in mind. In addition, Vauxhall has tweaked its FlexRide chassis specially for the GSi so that steering response, suspension damping and the torque-vectoring all-wheel drive system can be adjusted by selecting Normal, Tour or Sport.

For those for whom speed is an essential element, there is an ESC Competitive mode which is engaged by double-pressing the ESC button, allowing confident drivers to



There are tinted rear windows

'achieve maximum cornering speeds on a circuit. It allows for greater slip angles to match a more aggressive driving style.'

Engine choices are very straightforward – 2.0litre turbo petrol or 2.0litre bi-turbo diesel. The latter 210ps unit produces 480 Nm of torque at 1,500 rpm and has a top speed of 145mph.

For those who like the techie stuff, during normal driving the engine is in two-stage mode so there is super sharp throttle response. At high speeds, it switches over to single-stage for maximum airflow and efficiency. The petrol unit is no slouch either, packing as it does 260ps/400Nm of torque with a top speed red lining at 155mph.

Both are married to a super smooth eight-speed automatic transmission with parameters tweaked for optimum shift points, with paddles included as standard.

Expect an average 40.4mpg from the diesel and 32.8mpg from the petrol.



Styling cues include GSi front and rear body styling and side sills

Inside, the sporty intentions are evident from the moment the door is opened – metal pedals, heated flat bottomed steering wheel and specially designed leather sports seats. These at first look and feel as if they are gripping in all the wrong places.

Two hours later, after a drive encompassing a mixture of highway, byways and motorways, you'll emerge and realise they were a perfect fit.

On the road the GSi proved pacey and

precise, with stunningly solid road holding, and unwavering composure.

Prices start at £32,975 for the Grand Sport and £34,475 for the Sports Tourer which includes a very decent amount of kit as well as that brilliantly balanced, dynamic driving experience.

Standard spec includes an excellent head-up display, navigation, leather sport seats, heated front and outer seats plus drive and passenger massage facility.

Optional extras worth considering are the sunroofs (£705 for the Grand Sport and £960 for the Sports Tourer), the rear-view camera at £350, and the wireless charger at £160.

* The introduction of GSi does not signal the end of VXR, says Vauxhall, adding: "The VXR is a "hardcore" sports car, one that is ready for weekend outings on a race track. We are continuing to evaluate what future VXR models might be like."



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On the ball – coaching expert Clive



With Jamie Bunch, of the Albion Foundation



Clive's basketball daughter Dominique celebrates winning silver for England in Australia



Backing efforts – ex-NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon



Dudley-born Clive seen during his playing days

We can bounce back, but only with funding – Allen

A LACK of Government funding for basketball across the UK is nearing critical levels.

That's according to Clive Allen, who enjoyed a stellar two-decade career in the British Basketball League (BBL), and is now one of the most prominent coaches in the Black Country.

Basketball, although an American import, is now the second most played team sport in the country – only behind football.

The game is played on the streets, on courts in parks and at sports centre across the country, particular in urban areas.

Dudley-born Allen, who played for the now defunct Birmingham Bullets for 15 years, winning two championship titles, is now head coach of the basketball section at Sporting Club Albion, which in turn forms part of the Albion Foundation.

With a rich background in playing and coaching in the game, he has been in prime position to see how lack of funding has affected the sport he loves.

Thousands

"We have never really got a lot of funding from the Government, especially when compared with football," said Allen, whose funding for his team comes directly from the West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

"It becomes so relevant from my position where I can see all the money flowing in – football gets thousands and we get nothing.

"All my team funding comes through West Brom and the basketball players themselves."

Sports Minister Tracey Crouch recently said she held 'positive and constructive' talks with British basketball representatives about concerns over funding.

The meeting followed criticism the sport received nothing from UK Sport and warnings the national teams were close to folding.

UK Sport basis its funding on medal prospects and Allen said basketball found itself in a 'chicken and egg' situation.

"We don't get any money because of the medal prospects but we won't win medals without any funding," he said.

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

'We don't get any money because of the medal prospects but we won't win medals without any funding'

"There are so many people participating in basketball with clubs all over the country but it desperately needs more funding. Money is only going to the sports that are performing well but we are never going to do well in the Olympics without any money."

"We have some good players now mainly playing in the US and even in the NBA but England and Great Britain cannot afford the insurance needed to bring them back to play from their clubs for the country."

Britain's finest export is arguably Luol Deng, who now plays for the LA Lakers in the NBA.

He helped Team GB reach the London Olympics but now the national side cannot afford to cover his insurance and get him to play.

"We want the best players playing over here but we're not getting the money to do it," said Allen, whose daughter Dominique was part of the Team England side that won silver for basketball in the Commonwealth Games in Australia.

"If we could get all our best players back we would have a strong squad."

"Basketball is still a growing sport and there are so many kids taking part all over the country."

"And, no disrespect to other sports, but you also see how much is pumped into the likes of netball and it's very frustrating. Why can't we at least get some of it?"

"When I'm running a session it costs about £50 to hire the court out for about an hour so then you're having to charge the kids £4 to £5 for the session."

The West Brom basketball teams have expanded from two to 12 since Allen took over in 2009, cover-

ing U14s up to the men's, which are now linked with Dudley College, Sandwell College and Wolverhampton University.

Allen said the lack of BBL teams in the West Midlands area – with Leicester Riders and Worcester Wolves currently the nearest clubs to the Black Country and Birmingham – was affecting funding and the direction of the sport locally.

The Bullets folded in 2006 as did the Birmingham Panthers and Birmingham Knights franchises soon after.

"Birmingham hasn't had its own team now for more well over five years so when you're trying to promote basketball in schools, colleges and universities it gets more difficult when there's no support or path for them to follow," he said.

"A football camp can get anything up to 300 kids coming along but we'll be lucky to get 50. The football fans can meet the players and tour the stadium."

"The closest we have are Worcester Wolves or Leicester Riders."

Rockets

"The BBL Cup final is held at Arena Birmingham, which is something for the city, but none of the teams who make the finals are going to be local to the area."

"It's vital we get a team back up and running again to represent and support the Black Country and Birmingham."

Allen, who won five England caps, said the best option for the region appeared to be the City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club.

The potential relaunch has also received backing of former NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon, renowned as one of the finest ever players to grace the game.

Allen said: "His daughter goes to university in Birmingham and he bought a property over here and is interested in supporting the move."

"The team could be called the Birmingham Rockets in recognition of his time playing for the Houston Rockets in the NBA. It's early days but that seems to be the most promising option at present."

For further information about Allen's coaching programmes, call 07702 369606 or email clive.allen@albionfoundation.co.uk

New boys Wood edge to indoor game glory

COOMBS WOOD have completed a stunning WCB North Division Indoor Cricket League season by being crowned champions.

The newcomers snatched the title in dramatic fashion, topping the table on batting average only after finishing level on points with runners-up Oldswinford and Stourbridge. A tense final round of games saw Coombs Wood overcome Envile.

Tom Bingham, Greg Tomkins and Jono Howells all scored 25 for Envile as they posted 103-3. Dan Jones (25) and Carl Whyte (19) then led Coombs Wood's victory charge. And their title success was confirmed when Stourbridge, leaders for a number of weeks, lost to national champions Hagley in their final game.

Stourbridge made 93-4 thanks to 33 Ali Rashid and 22 from Mikesh Jivan-Patel. But an unbeaten 37 from Lee Nightingale saw Hagley home in the final over. Coombs Wood now play in the county final night in Worcester for the right to enter the national championship next year.

Village bowls trio called up for county

M&B CHESLYN HAY have seen three bowlers called up for Staffordshire's Midland Alliance competition.

Jack Hill, Jamie Webb and Reece Farr will be hoping to help Staffs taste success in the event after landing a place in the 10-man squad.

The event, often referred to as the County B tournament, takes place on Sunday, in Doncaster, South Yorkshire where the Staffordshire team will compete against sides from Derbyshire, the Potteries, Warwick & Worcester, North Midlands & South Yorkshire.

Bill Staite, county team manager said: "Since I became manager in 2016, three players from the 2016 alliance squad and five from the 2017 group, have all successfully progressed to represent the full county side."

The full squad is as follows: Jack Hill, Jamie Webb, Reece Farr (all M&B Cheslyn Hay), James Duce, Rob Perry (Penn), Stuart Gittings, Daniel Statham (Stile), Shelton Orpe (Chadsmoor), Ross Edwards and Dan Bodley (Willenhall Nordley).

More evidence call over fans' standing

THE Premier League said more evidence is needed before safe-standing can be introduced at top flight games. In a statement, league chiefs said research showed a clear majority of fans want the option of being able to stand during a game but only one in 20 wants to stand for the whole game.

The research, conducted by polling firm Populus over the last 16 months, was discussed by club chiefs at the Premier League shareholders' meeting in London. Last week it emerged that sports minister Tracey Crouch rejected a request from Albion to install 3,600 rail seats at The Hawthorns.

She later said she was "not convinced" of the arguments for repealing the all-seater rule, believing only a "vocal minority" want to stand and clubs should use existing legislation to force fans who persistently stand to sit down. This prompted an angry response from the English Football League, the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), West Brom's safety officer and fans across the country, with an online petition for safe standing on the government's website attracting almost 65,000 supporters in a week.

Sport

Basketball's Clive hopes sport can bounce back
See page 31



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Brummies storm to an easy victory

BIRMINGHAM stormed to a 57-33 National Trophy victory at Stoke courtesy of a late flurry of maximums. While the Edwards Plumbing Brummies never trailed in the fixture, they rounded off the night with five successive 5-1s to secure all four points on offer.

Club captain Mitchell Davey remains unbeaten in Birmingham colours after inflicting a full five ride maximum on his ex-employers, while vice skipper Tom Bacon settled for a paid maximum, tucking in behind Davey in Heats 13 and 15 after winning his opening three.

But arguably the performance of the night came from 15-year-old Leon Flint who in his first ever competitive fixture, went unbeaten.

Guest Jordan Jenkins contributed four solid second places while Callum Walker left Loomer Road on a high after taking the chequered flag in Heat 14. Layne Cupitt also finished on a positive note with a paid win in Heat 11 while inexperienced reserve Arran Butcher progressed in each of his three rides.

Team manager Laurence Rogers was delighted with what he described as a classy performance. "This really is a tremendous way to get our National Trophy quest started," he said.

"Every single one of them from 1-7 can be proud of themselves tonight because they can all take some positives away with them. We've had three unbeaten riders which is a marvellous achievement, particularly for Leon, who probably scored more points than his dad Gary did in his entire Stoke career!"

Heat was on in London as club took on marathon

ALL roads led to London at the weekend as athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club joined more than 40,000 other runners, including the UK's most successful distance runner Mo Farah, in the London Marathon.

Soaring heat conditions and as the mercury started to rise on Sunday runners started to fall. It was very much an endurance event with many seeing good times fall away and for many just crossing that finish line was an achievement.

Kevin Duckworth was first home for the hoops in 3.09.58 in 1,917th place, Darran Bishop came home in 3.42.06 in 6,198th, Lisa Kendrick was 11,613rd in 4.10.21. Marie Latreche came home in 4.17.17 in 13,049th, Sergei Lyubovnikov was 19,951st in 4.47.18, Simon Blizard finished in 4.53.02 in 21,363rd, Paula Alder in 5.18.43 in 27,033, Brian Lane in 5.24.02 in 28,250 and John Andrews in 5.32.23 in 29,820th.

Meanwhile, of the Halesowen runners in London, first home was Russ Cadwalader in 3.00.19, followed by Dave Lewis 3.06.23, Simon Duck 4.14.49 and first lady home Sally Spencer 4.26.32.

Fox finds Aston's flaw in second round

THERE was disappointment for Dudley middleweight Ryan Aston who slipped to defeat at the fists of Wiltshire's Anthony Fox at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday night.

After a decent opener, Aston looked in control of proceedings but Fox came back in the second and dropped Aston with a stiff right hand in the third. "Tank" was quickly on his feet but couldn't stop Fox taking the fourth round to record a slightly generous, if deserved, 40-37 win.

Tipton light heavyweight Ricky Summers put

in a solid display as he topped BCB Promotions' 'Time To Shine' bill. The 30 year-old was due to fight for an IBO Continental Title but a late pull out meant Summers took on Bulgarian Teyar Mehmed over six rounds.

Digger boxed well behind a solid jab to record a 60-53 and now has his eyes on a shot at the English or British strap.

Fellow English title contender, Halesowen super middleweight, Lennox Clarke, was also in action. The 26-year-old was due to challenge Eng-

lish Champion Darryl Williams on the postponed Billy Joe Saunders versus Martin Murray bill last weekend but, following an injury to BJS, has saw that chance postponed until the summer.

Clarke stepped in to keep active and took on Wilmer Gonzalez. He punished his Nicaraguan opponent after Gonzalez came in almost a stone over the 12st 4lb agreed limit, stopping him inside a round.

Wolverhampton's Polish welterweight Damian Kiwior defeated Mario Petrov.

Glassboys forced to share points

Lancaster City 0 Stourbridge 0
STOURBRIDGE drew a blank following their long distance trip to Lancaster but still managed to climb three league places. The Glassboys had goalkeeper Matt Gould to thank for keeping the eager home side at bay, as he pulled off a string of fine saves.

Stourbridge should have gone ahead after 12 minutes when Chris Gallagher put Wolves loanee Nicu Carnat in the clear, but he failed to hit the target, rolling his effort the wrong side of the post.

Lancaster always looked the more likely side to break the deadlock and should have gone ahead on 21 minutes when Paul Jarvis headed Ryan Winder's cross wide at the far post. Gould proved in great form tipping Craig Carney's shot over the crossbar on 31 minutes and then diving low to turn a Simon Willis shot around the post a minute later.

Glassboys came close to snatching the lead when Brad Birch's cross just evaded Carnat on 58 minutes while Aaron Forde fired wide.

Carney completely mis-kicked in front of goal on 75 minutes. It was Gould who came to the rescue again when diving to turn a Winder shot around the post with four minutes remaining.

Stour had to share the points at Barwell after Birch's goal was matched late on for the Leicestershire side by Ryan Baldwin. Stour were due to round off the league campaign with home games against Stafford Rangers tonight (Thursday) and Hednesford on Saturday.

Warrington Town 1 Halesowen Town 1
A SECOND-HALF goal from substitute Roland Agbor earned Halesowen a point and put paid to Warrington's title chances.

The home side needed to win to put pressure on Altrincham but the draw saw the latter crowned champions after they beat Grantham.

Warrington made all the running in the first half on a sunny afternoon in Cheshire, forcing a number of corners and free kicks as they looked for the vital breakthrough.

Halesowen goalkeeper Daniel Platt had to be at his best to turn away shots from Shaun Beeley. William Hayhurst and Gerard Kinsella also hit the underside of the bar.

For Yeltz Daniel Bragoli sent Lee Hughes through on 38 minutes but the ball was taken off the former Albion striker on the edge of the box.

Inspired

The pressure did finally pay off for the home side in the 57th minute when Mekhi Leacock-McLeod crossed for an unmarked Jamie McDonald to sweep home for the home side in the 57th minute.

But an inspired substitution by Halesowen boss John Hill saw Agbor come on for Daniel Byrnes.

He had an almost immediate impact when he applied a neat finish to a Jack Kelly cross to level the scores.

Safe from relegation, Halesowen were playing their penultimate league game at Mickleover yesterday (Wednesday) before hosting Stalybridge on Saturday at The Grove.

Meanwhile, an Albion All-Stars XI managed by Albion caretaker boss Darren Moore will take on a Boing FC team managed by Chris Brunt in tribute to former Albion stalwart and mascot Richard Eades at The Grove on Sunday. See further details on page 3.

England call for boxer Sahil



Sahil Khan triumphed in the 50kg weight category at the National Junior Championships

A TALENTED Dudley boxer has his sights set on further success after he was called-up to represent England at two major tournaments.

Sahil Khan triumphed in the 50kg weight category at the National Junior Championships in Rotherham last month. The victory, Khan's second national title, means he has now been selected to represent England in a tri-nations competition with Scotland and Wales in May.

He will also head out to Russia in October to represent his country in the European Championships.

Khan, 15, is a member of Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton. He is coached by Mick Smith and Paul Smith. Their assistant Kad Khan said: "Sahil is a very talented boy who has got all the tools and the ambition to go as far as he wants."

Bardsley upgrades table tennis title

STOURBRIDGE'S Charlotte Bardsley 'upgraded' from the Under-16 to Under-19 title at the Butterfly National School Individual Championships.

The England player, who attends Heathfield School, Wolverley, won the Under-16 title last year and this time took home the top age category crown after working her way through group and knockout stages.

She overcame Mollie Patterson in the final.

It was a clash between the top two seeds and Bardsley, the No 1, took it 3-1 (11-9, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7).

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Saturday & Sunday mornings 5 hours per day to help with laundry duties and general domestic work within the Home.
Email CV to Michelle Uppendine at michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk or Call and collect application from Lapal House, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen. B62 0ES
0121 503 0326 (office hours only)

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



BMW 520D SE
2010, 60K miles, MoT October 2018, metallic black, full black leather interior, aircon, radio / CD, Sat Nav, 6 speed manual, alloys.
£6,500
07570 668275.



CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6HDi
63 reg, new MoT, new service/tyres, 74,000 miles.
£3,500 ono.
Telephone 01902 682321.



FIAT 500 DIESEL BY DESIGN
(model not fuel)
2011, 55,600 miles, Diesel green metallic, EVW, stop/start, AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof, CD player, CL, MOI, 1 previous owner, alloys, tinted rear windows, spare wheel, tool kit, fsh.
£4,500 ono.
07918 621300 (no text)



FIAT 500 LOUNGE
2012, white, alloys, air con, panoramic roof, white steering wheel, head rests and dashboard, EW, start/stop. CD/radio, Bluetooth, £30 road tax, excellent condition.
£3,950 o.n.o.
07973 483797.

MUST BE SEEN

JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Classic saloon, November 2005, manual, MoT February 2019, 47,400 miles, very economical, alloy wheels, very good condition.

£2,595

01384 291853.

LOOK

LAND ROVER FREELANDER ESTATE TURBO DIESEL

Black, low mileage, service history, 55 reg, good condition, new battery and brake tubes, 10 months MoT.
£2,500 ono.
Telephone 07943 401208.



FORD B-MAX
Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388 engine, 10,000 miles, silver metallic, black roof, black alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio / CD, aircon, front fog lights, electric window, sliding back doors, immaculate condition.
£8,900
07788 684373.



PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0
3 door, 58 reg, 2008, 53k, fsh, new clutch, 12 months MoT and serviced last week, 3 months Warranty, superb condition.
£2,100.
07867 473870.

BARGAIN

SEAT LEON 1.6
2011, automatic, diesel, 70,000 miles, Sat Nav, fsh, sky blue, a/c, sunroof, excellent condition inside and out.
Drives like new.
£4,995 ono
Telephone 07824 640177
or 07506 178870.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL CORSA STING 1.2
2015, 64 plate, red with sporty white stripes, excellent condition, MoT January 2019, Vauxhall FSH, 22,650 miles.
£4,800 ono
07473 802391.



VW PASSAT 2.0 DIESEL
2010, 6 months MoT, 80,000 miles, new cam belt, cruise control, alloys, EW, heated seats.
£4,295 ono.
07852 778352.

Cars Under £1500



DODGE CALIBER MPV SPORT
06, TD, 80k, fsh, steel wheels, twin exhaust, eye catcher, reluctant sale.
£1,400.
07848 820177.



FORD FIESTA FREESTYLE 1.2 ZETEC
02, one owner, full MoT, alarm, very good condition inside and out.
£595
07462 722613.



FORD MONDEO 1.8 CDTi
Mot till December.
Very clean, good runner.
Cam belt changed, new spark plugs, fanstic family car.
Fully electric,
£1,250.
07730 596969.

LOW MILEAGE

NISSAN X TRIAL
Diesel, 83,000 miles, MoT, drives well,
£1,175 ono.
07547 566395.



ROVER 45 DIESEL
2002,
owned from new, FSH, reliable and economical, long MoT.
£450 ono
07396 190155.

Classic Cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Motorbikes

THIS COULD BE YOURS

HONDA C90 CUB
P reg, 7,300 miles, genuine original condition, 12 months MoT.
Collectable Classic.
£1,400.
07764 944771

KAWASAKI F6 125 TRAIL, 1972. American import, runs well, great project. £950 ono.
Telephone 01902 741598.

KAWASAKI GPZ500S MOT until June 26. P reg, 30,920 miles. Shock replaced about 500 miles ago. £1,000 ono. 07789 173302.

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 319694 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

FRANK DAVID PEARCE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 21 Blue Stone Walk, Rowley Regis West Midlands B65 9DG, who died on 29/03/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/07/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath B64 5HW
T5283371

MOREEN ALICE EDWARDS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 8 Whittingham Road Halesowen West Midlands B63 3TE, who died on 20/03/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 06/07/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
CLARKE WILLMOTT LLP
138 Edmund Street
Birmingham B3 2ES
T528418

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FreeAds

10 Personals

Personal

LOVELY, ATTRACTIVE LADY

Intelligent, kind, sociable, 64. WLTM genuine, intelligent, well dressed male to enjoy theatre, restaurants, travel etc.
Box Number P21154, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

RETIRE D MALE, 70

Fit, active, non smoker, Young at heart.
WLTM a female, non smoker, 60-70 for Friendship, nights out, theatre, holidays and who knows, a long term relationship.
Box Number P21155, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Sports Clubs

DUDLEY SPORTS 6-A-SIDE SUMMER TOURNAMENT
Saturday May 19, Sunday, May 20, 2018.
Saturday morning session, U'6s, U'8s, U'13s.
Afternoon session U'10s, U'12s, U'14s
Sunday, morning session U'7s, U'9s and U'11s, Afternoon session, U'15's boys.
Girls, U'10's to U'16's
Download application form
www.dudleysportsjfc.co.uk
or ring Fred 07788 684258.

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